GENE LUEN **YANG** AUTHOR OF THE #1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING *AMERICAN BORN CHINESE*

JOHN **ROMITA JR.** KLAUS **JANSON** DEAN **WHITE**

DC COMICS™

SUPERMAN™

VOLUME 1

BEFORE TRUTH

SUPERMAN

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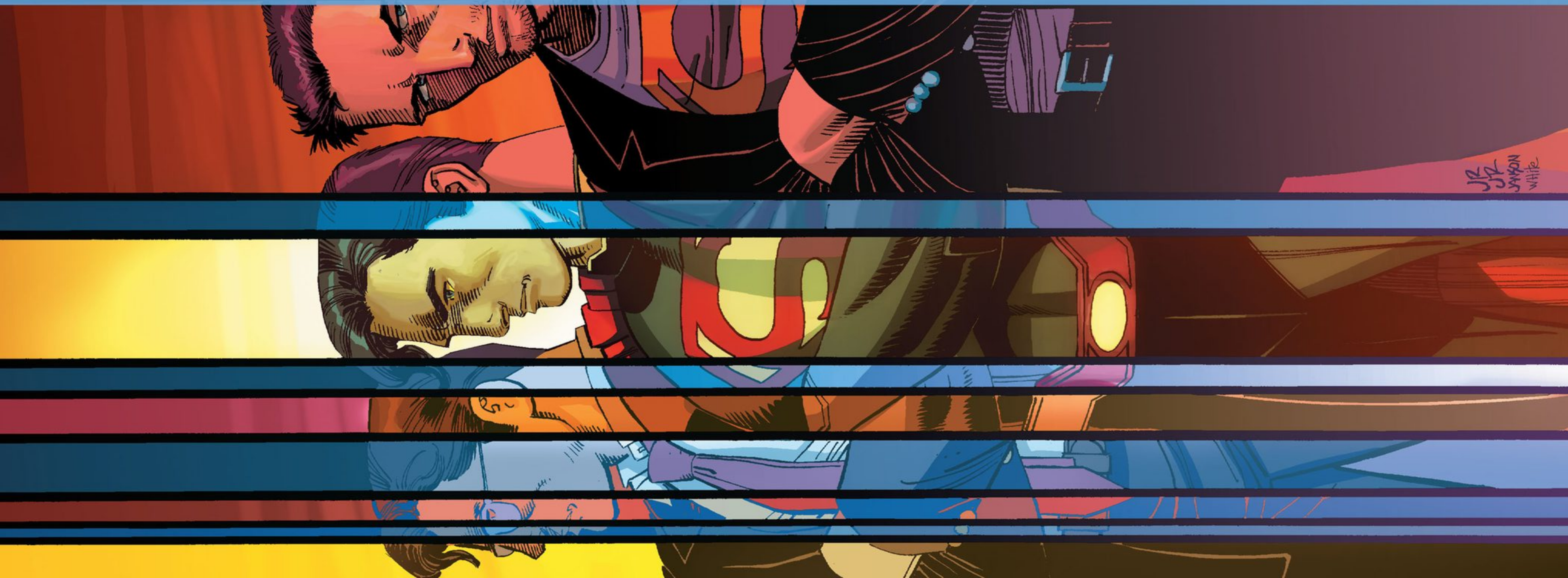
TRUTH



SUPERMAN

VOLUME 1
BEFORE TRUTH

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AND JOE SHUSTER
SUPERGIRL BASED ON
CHARACTERS CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL
AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

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JR
JR
JANSON
+
WHITE

Variant cover for issue #40 by **GARY FRANK** and **ALEX SINCLAIR.**

KHENTII MOUNTAINS, OUTER MONGOLIA. ELEVATION: 9200 FT.

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

SUPERMAN

POWERLESS

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DEAN WHITE: Colorist TRAVIS LANHAM: letterer Covers by ROMITA JR & JANSON W/ WHITE
Movie poster variant by DAVE JOHNSON Variant cover by GARY FRANK W/ ALEX SINCLAIR

JEREMY BENT and ANDREW MARINO: Assistant Editors EDDIE BERGANZA: Editor

...HHHHH NNNNN...

...NNNNNN...

K-CLICKKKT...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOLD TO AVOID HITCHHIKERS, LET ALONE *NAKED* HITCHHIKERS...

...BUT FOR YOU, I'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

CLIMB ABOARD, NATURE BOY.

I CAN'T BE PICKING YOU UP FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH, JUST SO YOU CAN EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR NEW POWER.

EITHER WE WORK ON A NEW PLAN, OR YOU START PAYING FOR GAS.

ALFRED PACKED A MEAL FOR YOU, AS ALWAYS, AND THERE'S A FULL SET OF CLOTHES AND A THERMO BLANKET UNDER YOUR SEAT.

AND THIS TIME, GET DRESSED *BEFORE* YOU SIT.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER.

OKAY...

...YOU'VE RECHARGED IN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, AND I'VE GOT EVERYONE PRETTY MUCH UP TO SPEED...

...NOW, DO YOU *HAVE* A PLAN, OR DO WE HAVE TO *GIVE* YOU A PLAN?

BECAUSE THIS WORLDWIDE TAXI SERVICE HAS *GOT* TO STOP.

I KNOW, *I KNOW.*

THIS STARTED AS AN EXTENSION OF MY HEAT VISION, AND WAS UNEXPECTED...

....BUT SINCE THEN, I'VE DEVELOPED A SMALL GRASP OF THE "TRIGGER."

THAT'S WHY I WANTED THIS MEETING. I NEED YOUR HELP UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S GOING ON.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT "BEING" HUMAN.

I'M AWARE OF HUMAN FEELINGS, BUT I'M *NOT* AWARE OF *FEELING* HUMAN.

AFTER A FEW TIMES, I'VE COME TO ENJOY IT.

ESPECIALLY THE FOOD!

THE FOOD. SERIOUSLY? THE FOOD?

IT'S A PART OF IT.

I'D LIKE TO LEARN TO CONTROL THIS, AND PERHAPS USE IT FOR ***MORE*** THAN SELFISH REASONS.

LEARN?

SO YOU'RE NOT SURE IF THIS "FLARE" IS DANGEROUS TO YOU, YOUR POWERS?

OR ANY OF US?

THAT'S A GOOD POINT. YOUR POWERS RETURN COMPLETELY?

YEAH, THAT'S A QUESTION THAT REQUIRES A SPECIFIC ANSWER, BIG GUY!

I THINK MY FLYING POWER IS LIMITED....TO "JUMPS."

AND THAT SEEMS INDEFINITE.

"YOU THINK"? "INDEFINITE"?

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP...SPECIFICALLY CYBORG'S.

BEEN THINKING ABOUT ALL THIS, AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT A TEST IS IN ORDER--

--ALONG THE LINES OF TEST FORMAT "JL 1-1A."

JL 1-1A? NEVER HEARD OF THAT TEST.

HAVE ANY OF YOU BEEN THROUGH IT?

GUYS?

EXACTLY 45 MINUTES LATER.

15 E

THIS IS A RECREATIONAL SECTOR!

WELL, WE THINK THIS *IS* RECREATIONAL!

WE JUST NEEDED A LARGE SPACE TO TEST YOUR RETURNING POWER LEVEL--

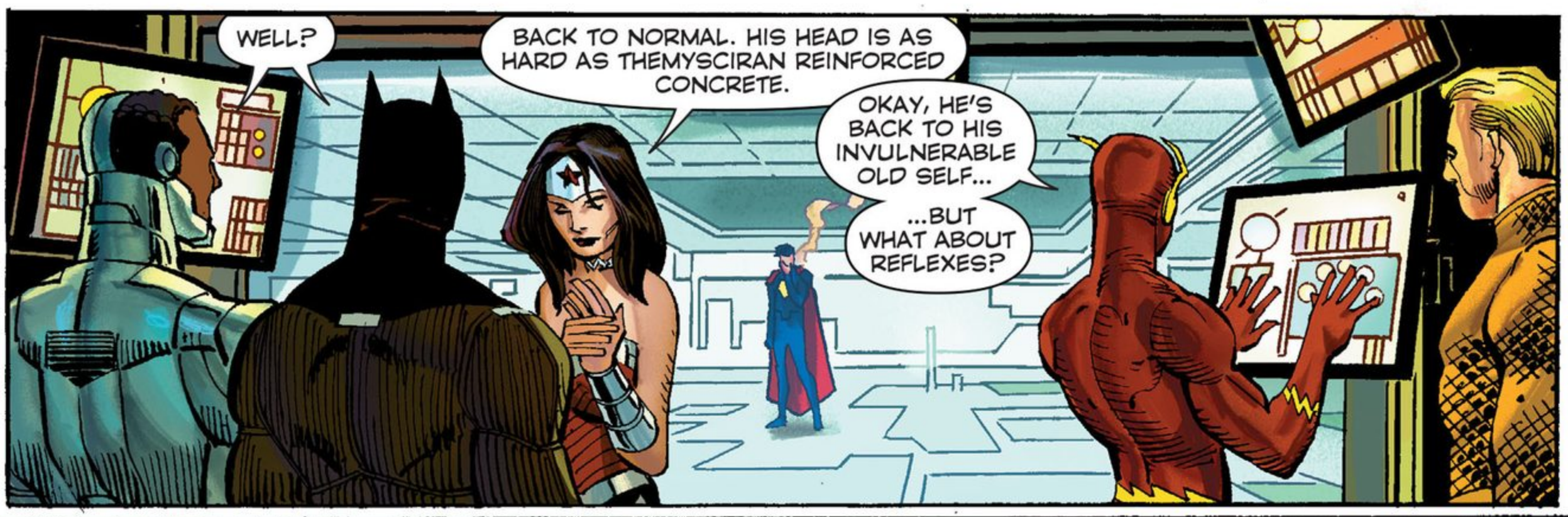
--AND IT LOOKS LIKE THAT WAS A *SMART* IDEA.

CLEVER, GUYS...THERE *IS* NO JL1-1A TEST, IS THERE?

NO. BUT IT DOES GIVE US AN IDEA...

...OF HOW "BACK TO NORMAL" YOU TRULY *ARE!*

...NNNF!...


WELL?
BACK TO NORMAL. HIS HEAD IS AS HARD AS THEMYSCIRAN REINFORCED CONCRETE.
OKAY, HE'S BACK TO HIS INVULNERABLE OLD SELF...
...BUT WHAT ABOUT REFLEXES?

THE RUIN

"REC" ROOM?
MORE LIKE "WRECK" ROOM... WITH A "W," GET IT?
≥GROAN≤ YEAH, YEAH, WE GET IT.
NICE TRY, THOUGH, RIGHT?

ALL JOKING ASIDE, WE GOT ANSWERS ABOUT YOUR RETURNING POWER LEVELS...

...BUT WE NEED TO MONITOR ONE OF YOUR "FLARE-OUTS."

LET'S HEAD DOWN A FEW LEVELS.

I MAY NEED TO SEE A DENTIST.

THANKS, DIANA.

AFTER EXAMINING BATMAN'S RECENT DIAGNOSTICS, I'VE BEEN GOING OVER THIS IN MY HEAD AND INTERFACING WITH THE WATCHTOWER'S MAINFRAME.

YOUR SOLAR FLARES NEED TO BE MONITORED IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.

ANYWHERE ELSE COULD DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION AND HAVE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS--

--NOT TO MENTION THE OBVIOUS DANGERS TO ANYONE OR ANYTHING IN PROXIMITY.

I'VE MANAGED TO DIVERT THE JET EXHAUST BAFFLES FROM THREE LEVELS, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIFFUSE THE INITIAL BLAST.

BATMAN'S DIAGNOSTIC SHOWED THAT A FULL POWER BLAST COULD ALTER THE WATCHTOWER'S ORBIT!

I'VE EVEN MANAGED TO REPOSITION SOME OF THE EXTERNAL SOLAR PANELS, TO THE INTERIOR EXHAUST TUNNEL WALLS.

WHO KNOWS, WE COULD SOLVE THE ENERGY NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE PLANET, IF WE GET LUCKY!

FUNNY, A ONE MAN GLOBAL WARMER.

HYSTERICAL.

THESE ARE JET EXHAUST TUNNELS, AND WE'RE BEHIND FOUR FEET OF TRANSPARENT TITANIUM.

LET'S ROLL!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED THIS...

...BUT I RECALL INHALING AND THEN HOLDING MY BREATH, AFTER THE INITIAL HEAT VISION BLAST, AS I FELT IT EXPANDING.

AND THEN I RECALL EXHALING, AS IT FINISHES.

LET'S SEE...

...IF... IT...

...HAPPENS...

...A...

...AGAIN!!!

SSSSSSSSZZZ

SSSSSSSSSSSSSS

SSSSSSSSZZZZ

KKKKRRRRRRZZZZZZZZT

WHOOOAAH!!

KKKKRRRRRRZZZZ

KKRRZZZZT

A SOLAR FLARE...AN EMP!

ANYONE KNOW WHERE THE BROOM AND DUSTPAN ARE?

HEY, HOTSHOT.

OKAY, EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN.

YOU'RE PUTTING YOURSELF AND US THROUGH THIS BECAUSE...

THE "WHY," I ALREADY TOUCHED ON, BUT WHERE THIS CAME FROM, I DON'T KNOW. FIGHTING AGAINST ULYSSES BROUGHT IT ON THE FIRST TIME.

I'M GOING TO NEED MORE HELP FINDING OUT WHAT CAUSES THIS, BUT AT LEAST I'M GETTING A BETTER GRASP OF THE "TRIGGER."

I THINK I FIGURED OUT HOW TO CONTROL THE START OF IT.

IT'S MUCH LIKE A LONG SLOW BUILD UP TO A PRIMAL SCREAM...BUT WITHOUT THE SCREAM.

WHAT BOTHERS ME IS...IS THIS THE *END* OF IT?

ARE MY POWERS EVOLVING?

I DON'T KNOW....AND I *NEED* TO FIND OUT.

I UNDERSTAND, CLARK.

BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVE A QUESTION, AND IT'S THE *MOST* IMPORTANT QUESTION:

ARE YOU HUNGRY?

LET'S HAVE DINNER. *YOUR* TREAT.

METROPOLIS.
THE CORNER OF GRAND AVENUE AND 18TH STREET, 6 HOURS LATER.
GRAND TAVERN
A TOAST.
TO THE WORLD'S FIRST CONTROLLED AND MONITORED SUPER FLATUS!
BARRY!
SORRY. HEY, YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD MY FIRST CHOICE OF TOASTS...
...BUT MIXED COMPANY PRECLUDED MY USE OF IT!
I FEEL SO FORTUNATE!
LOVE THAT RINGTONE!
YEAH, NOTHING BUT THE BLUES...
VIC, WHAT'S UP?
I THINK I'M ON TO SOMETHING.
SERIOUSLY, I THINK WE CAN CAPTURE AND HARNESS SOME OF THE ENERGY OF HIS FLARE-OUT, IF WE ADJUST THE SOLAR CELLS AND BATTERIES...
...BUT IT WILL BE COSTLY.
BRUCE?
THANKS, VIC.
LET ME CALL YOU BACK. WE MAY HAVE AN UNEXPECTED SITUATION HERE.
HEY, THIS IS GREAT! I LOVE YOU GUYS! LET'S GET SOME ITALIAN FOOD AFTER THIS....I'M STARVING!

SO WE HANG OUT HERE FOR A FEW MORE HOURS, AND DRINK SOME MORE OF THIS STUFF--

--THEN WE CAN HEAD DOWN TO LITTLE ITALY, AND... AND THEN SOME OF THOSE MINI PASTRIES--

--AND THOSE THINGS CALLED, WHAT... CANNOOLS?

CANNOLIS!

CANNOLIS, RIGHT!

HEY, GUYS, I *KNOW* THIS HAS BEEN AN IMPOSITION, BUT THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES!

WITH THIS POWER, WE CAN SQUARE OFF AGAINST HUGE, SUPER COSMIC BADDIES!

CLARK, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

OH, SORRY. OKAY, I'LL WHISPER!

...THINK ABOUT IT, IF THE BAD GUYS KNOW ABOUT THIS POWER, THEY'LL BE LESS LIKELY TO BE BAD, RIGHT? SO WE'D HAVE LESS BADDIES, LESS BATTLES, AND ALL BECAUSE OF MY SUPER [illegible] AND

HAS HE EVER HAD ALCOHOL?

NOT AS A HUMAN, HE HASN'T.

HE PROBABLY HAS THE TOLERANCE OF A FLEA!

CAN HE GET A HANGOVER FROM A FEW OUNCES OF LIGHT BEER?

NAH, IT'LL ALL BE IN HIS HEAD! HA HA!

....THIS IS CPR, METROPOLIS PUBLIC RADIO, AND WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTION OF BLUES ALL NIGHT, BUT WE HAVE A DEVELOPING SITUATION IN THE DOWNTOWN TECH DISTRICT.

5:50

ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, THERE IS A GROUP OF MEN FIRING WEAPONRY AT RANDOM. DAMAGES ARE UNDETERMINED AT THIS POINT.

FORTUNATELY, AT THIS EARLY HOUR, RUSH HOUR HAS YET TO BEGIN AND THE STREETS ARE RELATIVELY QUIET. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL HELP AVOID CASUALTIES.

WHAT??
WHAT?
CASUALTIES?? WHAT DID I SLEEP THROUGH??!

KETCHUP

DAMN! ***OWWW,*** MY HEAD...MY STOMACH! WHAT THE HECK DID I EAT?

THE SITUATION IS UNFOLDING IN THE DOWNTOWN TECH DISTRICT. APPARENTLY THREE UNIDENTIFIED MALES ARE FIRING INDISCRIMINATELY.

STAY TUNED TO CPR PUBLIC RADIO FOR FURTHER REPORTS.

DAMN... I'VE GOT TO GET MOVING!

THIS COULD BE SERIOUS!

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

OH MAN! THE TASTE IN MY MOUTH IS ***AWFUL!*** I HOPE DRINKING THE MOUTHWASH DOESN'T AFFECT MY STOMACH!

I'VE GOT TO ZIP DOWN THERE AND TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT...AND BEFORE MY STOMACH BLOWS!

I WILL ***NEVER*** DO THIS AGAIN!

WHOOOA, I FORGOT.... TOO SOON! NO FLYING!

JUST JUMPING. IT'LL HAVE TO DO.

AND I'M NOT THAT FAR AWAY.

YEAH BABY!! THIS IS HAPPENIN' *JUST* LIKE THE MAN SAID!

THESE GUNS ARE DOING EVERYTHING THE MAN SAID! BUT THEY'RE NOT EASY TO CONTROL... DAMN!

YEAH, AND WHAT DID HE MEAN BY SAYIN' WE WOULD GET "HANDSOME"? THAT'S WEIRD, MAN!

"HANDSOMELY," "REWARD US HANDSOMELY," YOU IDIOT!

WHO CARES ABOUT REWARD...THESE GUNS ARE REWARD ENOUGH FOR ME!!

AND THERE'S OUR TARGET, DEAD AHEAD!

LEX TECH... *LIGHT IT UP!!!*

GET AS CLOSE TO CENTER AS POSSIBLE!

NOW IF WE CAN FILL UP THESE "BACKPACKS"...

...WITH EVERY BIT OF ENERGY FROM WHATEVER IS INSIDE...

...THEN IT WILL GO DOWN JUST LIKE THE MAN SAID!

YEAH, WELL, *THIS* MAN SAYS...

YOU GUYS ARE DONE!!

HAH! THE MAN *SAID* ONE OF YOU COSTUMED FREAKS WOULD SHOW...

BUT WE GOT SUPERMAN! LET'S DRAIN 'IM OF EVERYTHING HE'S GOT!!

YEEEHAAAA!!

GOT TO AVOID THE BLASTS...DON'T KNOW WHAT EFFECT THEY'LL HAVE.

LUCKY FOR ME... THEIR AIM IS BAD!

KA-THRONNG

UUHHHNN!!

THE BUILDING!

UNNH!

YEEEEAAAAHHHH! WE JUST WASTED SUPERMAN!!!

OOOOHH, BABY!!

WOOOO WOOOO WOOP WOOP

HEY, SIRENS! COPS! COULD BE MILITARY, AND MORE COSTUMES!

COME ON, LET'S *MOVE*... WE FILLED THESE PACKS UP ENOUGH!

WHADDAYA WORRYIN' ABOUT, WE JUST DROPPED SUPERMAN!

WHOA! WHAT'S THE GROUND SHAKIN' FOR? EARTHQUAKE? MILITARY? TANKS?

NNRRRHHH!

I'VE FELT PAIN BEFORE, BUT NOT LIKE THIS. THIS IS DIFFERENT, MAYBE BECAUSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME--

--BUT IT TICKS ME OFF JUST THE SAME!

THAT'S IT! *I'M FINISHING THIS CHUMP!!!*

SKKRAKK

NOT QUITE, PUNK!

CHEW ON *THIS!*

AAAEEEHH!

AAWWWRR!!

HNNNHH...

DON'T KNOW IF MY HEAD HURTS FROM THE DEBRIS, OR THE FLARE-OUT... OR THE BEER.

I WILL *NEVER* DO THAT AGAIN!

THE POLICE, CROWDS...GOT TO MOVE.

THESE WEAPONS ARE NOTHING I'VE SEEN BEFORE.

BATMAN AND CYBORG NEED TO SEE THEM.

SO I NEED TO GRAB THEM AND HOP OUT OF HERE.

I'M DEFINITELY NOT MYSELF!

I WONDER WHERE JIMMY IS?

HE'LL BE ANNOYED AT MISSING ALL THIS!

I AM OUTTA HERE.

OWWW, MY HEAD!

WE HERE AT METRO ONE NEWS TRY TO BROADCAST OUR FAIR SHARE OF AMATEUR PHOTOS AND VIDEOS, BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THEY GO VIRAL...

BUT HOW OFTEN DOES AN AMATEUR GET *THIS*??

METRO 1

A VIDEO OF SUPERMAN ACTUALLY TAKING OFF POST-CRIME SCENE!

I NEVER KNEW HE JUMPED!

METRO 1

THE VIDEO CONTINUES TO SHOW SUPERMAN DISAPPEARING INTO THE MORNING FOG.

METRO 1

THESE IMAGES, FROM ANOTHER AMATEUR VIDEO, ARE OF SUPERMAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISPATCHING A TRIO OF THUGS WHO WERE BLASTING AWAY AT LEX TECH, ACCORDING TO ONE EYEWITNESS.

METRO 1

WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND UPDATE THE REPORTS ON THIS AMAZING EVENT, AS INFORMATION COMES TO US.

ONE FINAL NOTE: BUT HOW OFTEN DOES AN IMAGE OF A BLOODY, BEATEN-UP SUPERMAN COME ACROSS OUR DESK, LET ALONE AN AMATEUR IMAGE? IT HAD TO BE A ROUGH BATTLE!

CLARK?

THIS IS SAL GRACI, REPORTING FOR METRO ONE NEWS.

CLARK?

CLARK?

JR
JR
JANSON
SINC'

The Joker 75th Anniversary variant cover for issue #41 by **KARL KERSCHL.**

AFTER EVERYTHING CHANGED.

GENE LUEN YANG: writer JOHN ROMITA, JR.: penciller KLAUS JANSON: inker

DEAN WHITE: colorist ROB LEIGH: letterer
ROMITA JR., JANSON, WHITE: cover KARL KERSCHL: Joker 75th anniversary cover
ANDREW MARINO: assistant editor EDDIE BERGANZA: group editor

BEFORE TRUTH PART 1

BEFORE.

BUT I NEED TIME TO GET MY *NACHOS!*

JIMMY, TIP-OFF ISN'T FOR ANOTHER HOUR. GIVE ME *FIVE MINUTES* TO FINISH UP THESE E-MAILS.

FINE. *FIVE MINUTES.* REMEMBER THE NACHOS!

B-DEEP

MAY

Unknown // 7:02 PM

Good evening, Mr. Kent

C. Kent // 7:02 PM

Who is this?

Unknown // 7:02 PM

A friend ;)
Turn on CNN

--AND THE LATEST VICTIMS' STORY IS ONE THAT HAS BECOME ALL TOO *FAMILIAR.*

MY FAMILY, WE COME HERE FOR A *NEW LIFE.* NOW *THIS.*

THEY BREAK IN OUR STORE! THEIR *GUNS* ARE LIKE...HOW DO YOU SAY...LIKE *LIGHTNING.*

CLICK

POLICE BELIEVE THE CAUSE OF THIS RECENT CRIME WAVE IS *AN UNKNOWN SOURCE* SELLING *TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED WEAPONRY* TO METROPOLIS *GANGS.*

Unknown // 7:04 PM

I know the "unknown source"

Unknown // 7:04 PM

Do as I say
You'll have the story of the year

SORRY, JIMMY. CHANGE OF PLANS.

I TRAVELED ALL THE WAY TO AMERICA TO LOOK AT A *MECHANICAL SPIDER?*

FFFSSSSRRRR---

MY DEAR GENERAL, THAT "SPIDER" IS THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED *3D PRINTER.* IT ALLOWS US TO *CUSTOMIZE* EVERY WEAPON TO ITS USER.

WE HAVE *TEN* SUCH PRINTERS, ALL OPERATING AT DIFFERENT *SCALES.*

THE *LARGEST* ONE IS *MOBILE.* IT'S CAPABLE OF PRINTING A *TANK.*

COME, I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.

YOUR STAFF SENT US YOUR *SPECIFICATIONS.* GIVE IT A TRY.

HA HA! IMPRESSIVE!

ZZZ-KRKT-KRACK

PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO TALK *BUSINESS*, DEAR GENERAL?

IT'S *ALWAYS* TIME TO TALK BUSINESS.

YOU GETTING THIS?

OF COURSE.

YOU WERE *RIGHT*, CLARK. THIS IS *WAY* BETTER THAN NACHOS! HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT IT?

ANONYMOUS TIP.

SERIOUSLY? THOSE ALMOST *NEVER* WORK OUT.

HEY, DOES THE GUY WITH THE *SLICKED-BACK HAIR* LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?

VAGUELY.

WISH I HAD A BETTER SHOT OF HIS *MUG*.

COME ON, LET'S GET YOU ONE.

IF I'D KNOWN WE WERE GONNA BE *SNEAKING AROUND* LIKE THIS, I WOULD'VE WORN MY *COVERT OUTFIT*.

YOUR *WHAT?*

YOU KNOW, MY OUTFIT FOR DOING *COVERT STUFF*. YOU DON'T HAVE ONE?

NO.

WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA DO MORE OF *THIS* KIND OF THING, MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING--

--ONE.

ZZZ-KRKR-ZZT

SECURITY BREACH, SECTOR A-7!

KRT-KRACK

RUN, JIMMY!

OH, GEEZ.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE *RUN*, BOY.

ZZKT-ZZKR

WOULD'VE ENDED MORE *PAINLESSLY.*

TRUST ME, BUDDY, YOU DON'T WANNA DO THIS!

OH, I'M PRETTY SURE WE *DO.*

RKT-ZZRK

NO. YOU *DON'T.*

KRUNCH

SUPERMAN!

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?!

SUPERMAN IS HERE.

DAMN.

MY APOLOGIES, GENERAL, BUT WE MUST VACATE THE PREMISE *IMMEDIATELY.*

REMEMBER OUR *GIANT MOBILE PRINTER* I MENTIONED EARLIER? WHEN IT ARRIVES, THINGS ARE GOING TO GET *MESSY.*

CLICK

KRASH!

AAAH!

WHAM

Hngh!

KRACK

KSH

SUPERMAN! YOU OKAY?

THAT ROBOT IS *STURDIER* THAN IT LOOKS.

OH, GOD... MY LEG... *MY LEG...*

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

HOLD UP-- YOU THINK I COULD GET ONE MORE SHOT?

SORRY, JIMMY.

KNOOSH

A MINUTE AGO, I WAS TRYING TO SHOOT YOU IN THE *F-FACE!*

WHY ARE YOU *S-SAVING* ME...?

HE'S *SUPERMAN,* DUMMY.

HANG ON SO I CAN GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.

NOT WITH *THAT THING* CHASING US!

KRA

SH

JIMMY, GET HIM AS *FAR AWAY* AS YOU CAN.

FFFSSSRR-

NGFF!

FFFSSSRRR

FFFSSSSRRRRR

CLARK, YOU GOTTA WARN A GUY BEFORE YOU DO THAT ***SOLAR FLARE*** THING! AND DON'T YOU NEED TO, I DON'T KNOW, ***LIE DOWN*** OR SOMETHING?

YOUR HEAD'S STILL SMOKING A LITTLE.

I'M OKAY. THE ***JUSTICE LEAGUE*** HELPED ME FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP MY FLARES SMALLER, MORE CONTAINED.

IT WON'T TAKE AS LONG FOR MY POWERS TO COME BACK.

BESIDES, WE REALLY NEED TO GET GOING ON THIS. THOSE PEOPLE NEED TO BE ***STOPPED.***

WHAT PEOPLE?

sniff sniff

AND WHAT'S THAT ***SMELL?*** YOU GUYS GO TO ***KOREAN BARBEQUE*** WITHOUT ME?

LOIS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MY ***JOB.*** THERE WAS A ***HUGE EXPLOSION*** IN ***TECHNOLOGY PARK*** ABOUT AN HOUR AGO--

--AND YOU TWO ARE ALREADY WORKING ON IT.

HEY! GO FIND YOUR ***OWN*** STORY!

WOW. SUPERMAN WAS THERE, *huh?* HOW'D YOU GET THESE SHOTS, JIMMY?

ANONYMOUS TIP.

REALLY? THOSE ALMOST ***NEVER*** WORK OUT. THIS MAN WAS INVOLVED?

YEAH. YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

YOU DON'T?

SHOULD I?

HOW ABOUT NOW?

HEY...

HE GOT ELECTED RECENTLY--

YES, WHILE YOU WERE OFF ON ASSIGNMENT LAST MONTH.

HE'S *LELAND NORVELL*, OUR NEW *STATE SENATOR*.

I'VE BEEN COVERING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR MONTHS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS WERE THROWN OFF BY A *FAKE MUSTACHE*.

ELECT LELAND NORVELL

SO WHAT'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT METROPOLIS' *FAVORITE POLITICIAN?*

HE RUNS AN UNDERGROUND *WEAPONS TRAFFICKING OPERATION*.

YOU'RE KIDDING.

THESE PEOPLE... I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY *SLEEP* AT NIGHT, WITH ALL THE *SECRETS* THEY HAVE TO HIDE.

CAN YOU CALL *PERRY* AND LET HIM KNOW WHAT WE'VE GOT SO FAR?

WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

TO GET THE *NORVELL FILES* FROM MY OFFICE. WE CAN DECIDE WHOSE NAME COMES *FIRST* IN THE BYLINE LATER.

BUT YOU WEREN'T EVEN *THERE!*

DAILY PLANET

★★★★ Morning Edition — "A Great Metropolitan Newspaper" — $1.00

SENATOR NORVELL SUPPLIED HI-TECH WEAPONS TO GANGS, FOREIGN MILITANTS

SUPERMAN DESTROYED NORVELL'S UNDERGROUND WEAPONS FACTORY

by Clark Kent and Lois Lane
Writers

ATF

ATF

ATF

I'M PROUD OF YOU, TEAM!

CLINK.

MORE THAN PROUD--I'M *ASTOUNDED!* THIS STORY? *THIS* IS WHY WE ALL GOT INTO THE BUSINESS IN THE *FIRST PLACE!*

I'M TAKING YOU THREE OUT TO DINNER TONIGHT, *MY TREAT!* WE'LL GET SOME REAL FOOD AND *REAL DRINKS.* WHAT IS THIS STUFF, ANYWAY?

MICRO-BREW ROOT BEER. *CLARK'S FAVORITE.*

APPRECIATE THE GESTURE, PERRY, BUT I'M NOT SURE WE'RE ALL GONNA MAKE IT 'TIL DINNER TIME. WE'VE BEEN UP *ALL NIGHT.*

PERRY, YOU FORGET ABOUT OUR TWO O'CLOCK?

FINISH THIS UP FOR ME, OLSEN.

CONGRATS, EVERYBODY!

THANKS, JACKEE.

Z--ᶻᶻ... WHA--?

TAKE A NAP IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT COME BY MY OFFICE AT SEVEN O'CLOCK SHARP! *I INSIST!*

Unknown // 1:53 PM

Kudos, Mr. Kent
Job well done

B-DEEP

CLARK? SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S NOTHING. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

C. Kent // 1:54 PM

Tell me who you are

Unknown // 1:54 PM

I told you before
I'm a friend ;)

Unknown // 1:55 PM

I have another request
A woman will come to the Daily Planet and ask for you
Blue dreadlocks, you can't miss her--Turn her over to the proper authorities

Unknown // 1:55 PM

Poor thing is delusional
Sick in the head, in need of help

C. Kent // 1:55 PM

Tell me who you are
Or stop contacting me

Unknown // 1:56 PM

But I'm your biggest fan ;)
I even set up a fan page for you
Take a look

Unknown // 1:58 PM

Clark
May I call
you Clark?
Don't worry
Your secret is
safe with me

Unknown // 1:59 PM

As long as you do
exactly as I say ;)

JIMMY, *WAKE UP!* DID YOU TELL ANYONE?!

WHAT...?

ABOUT *ME!* DID YOU TELL ANYONE?!

NO, OF COURSE NOT!

YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT'D BE IF THE *WRONG PEOPLE* FIND OUT!

THINK HARD! DID YOU EVER *SLIP UP?!* ACCIDENTALLY *TIP SOMEBODY OFF?!*

I SWEAR, I'VE NEVER BEEN SO *CAREFUL* ABOUT ANYTHING IN MY *LIFE!*

COME ON, CLARK, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME.

I'M YOUR *BEST FRIEND.*

MAYBE IT'S *MY* FAULT...EVER SINCE I STARTED *FLARING,* I'VE BEEN SLOWER...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

...SLOWER THAN THE *BLINK* OF AN EYE, THE *SNAP* OF A CAMERA.

AND NOW...

MR. KENT? SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU.

BZZT

JIMMY, I NEED A FAVOR.

CLARK KENT

LOIS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! SHE ASKED FOR *ME!*

SHE ASKED FOR THE *REPORTERS* WHO COVERED THE *NORVELL SCANDAL*, WHICH INCLUDES *ME!*

MR. KENT, MS. LANE--

I GOT THINGS TO SAY, BUT WE GOTTA GO SOMEPLACE WHERE IT'S *JUST US.*

DING

DAMN. THEY'RE HERE FOR ME!

HURRY, WE'LL GO DOWN THE STAIRWELL!

NO, LOIS! I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE HER!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, CLARK? SHE'S ASKING FOR OUR *HELP!* AT THE VERY *LEAST*, WE SHOULD HEAR HER OUT!

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF *TROUBLE* SHE'S IN! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO SHE *IS!*

GIVE ME A *CHANCE*, MR. KENT! I RISKED *EVERYTHING* TO COME TO YOU!

SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A *COWARD?!*

ADA AMORAGUJETA--

I GO BY *CONDESA.*

--ADA AMORAGUJETA, WE HAVE A WARRANT FOR YOUR *ARREST.*

FBI

C. Kent // 2:17 PM

I did what you asked
Now leave me alone

Unknown // 2:17 PM

But Clark
We're just
getting started ;)

Tell me who you are
Or stop contacting me

As long as you do
exactly as I say ;)

I did what you asked
Now leave me alone

But Clark
We're just
getting started ;)

YOU'RE NOT REALLY *FBI*, ARE YOU?

QUIET, GIRL.

THUD

...THE HELL?!

BANG BANG

FBI

AAAH!

KRASH

DOESN'T MATTER, *INSIDE* THE CAR OR *OUT*--

YOU'RE *DEAD*, SON!

BANG

OOF!

FBI

WHUMP

SMASH

Krk!

HOOO

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OH! HEY, LOIS!

I'M JUST, *ah*... WAITING FOR CLARK. WE'RE GOING OUT TO ***LUNCH.***

POP

LATE LUNCH. MIND IF I TAG ALONG?

Um, WE WERE SORT OF HOPING FOR SOME ***GUY TIME.***

GREAT! I ***LOVE*** GUY TIME.

GLASSES, CLARK!

LOIS...!

CLARK.

WHAT'D YOU DO TO MY *COVERT OUTFIT?*

WAIT, ARE YOU *BLEEDING?!*

I'M *FINE*... I'M PRETTY SURE...

ngh

I'M *FINE.*

AND WHO ARE *THOSE GUYS?!*

THEY'RE AFTER ME 'CAUSE OF WHAT I *KNOW.*

THE SENATOR WAS JUST A *PAWN.* THE TRUTH IS SO MUCH *BIGGER* THAN HIM... SO MUCH *UGLIER.*

WE'LL TALK... WHEN WE'RE *SAFE.*

DRIVE.

BANG BANG BANG

SKEEEEEEEE

CLARK... YOU STILL WITH US?

KRASH!

CLARK!

JR
JR
JANSON

Teen Titans Go! variant cover
for issue #42 by **JORGE CORONA.**

OUTSIDE METROPOLIS.

THE ONLY *HEARTBEATS* WITHIN A MILE ARE *OURS.*

SO YOU'VE GOT YOUR *POWERS* AGAIN?

TOO BAD THEY DIDN'T COME BACK AN HOUR AGO, CLARK. YOU COULD'VE SAVED YOURSELF FROM GETTING *SHOT.*

MAN, ALL THAT *BLEEDING* IN THE CAR HAD US WORRIED.

IT WASN'T *THAT* BAD, JIMMY.

Um, ACTUALLY, IT *WAS.*

WE'RE ALONE, CONDESA. SAY WHAT YOU NEED TO SAY.

BEHIND THE *SENATOR* AND THE *GUNS*--BEHIND *EVERYTHING* THAT'S GONE DOWN--IS A CRIME SYNDICATE CALLED *HORDR.*

THEY'RE KINDA LIKE A *TECH COMPANY,* KINDA LIKE A *GANG.*

SOUNDS LIKE *LEXCORP.*

Nah, LEXCORP IS *LAST CENTURY,* LOIS. LUTHOR'S STILL TRYING TO MAKE MONEY FROM *ATOMS.*

HORDR'S ALL ABOUT *BITS.* WEAPONS ARE JUST A *SIDE BUSINESS.*

THE REAL CASH COMES FROM *INFORMATION,* FROM *SECRETS.*

THEY FIGURE OUT THE WORLD'S *BIGGEST SECRETS,* THEN SELL 'EM OR USE 'EM AS *LEVERAGE.*

I DON'T CARE HOW *POWERFUL* YOU ARE--YOU GOT A *BIG ENOUGH SECRET,* HORDR WILL GET TO YOU.

HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS?

I WORK FOR HORDR. OR I *USED TO,* ANYWAY.

Uh...CLARK? YOU KNOW HOW YOU SAID WE'RE *ALONE?*

I'M THINKING MAYBE YOU'RE *WRONG.*

BEFORE TRUTH PART 2

GENE YANG: writer — JOHN ROMITA, JR.: penciller — KLAUS JANSON: inker

DEAN WHITE, WIL QUINTANA, TOMEU MOREY: colorists — ROB LEIGH: letterer

ROMITA, JR., JANSON, WHITE: cover — JORGE CORONA: Teen Titans Go! variant cover

ANDREW MARINO: assistant editor — EDDIE BERGANZA: group editor

WHOA! *BIG BOY* CAN *FIGHT!*

I SEEN GUYS LIKE THIS BEFORE. ONE OF HORDR'S ALLIES DEVELOPED THE *TECH*. THEY'RE LIKE *ZOMBIES*...CORPSES THAT'VE BEEN MADE INTO *SOLIDIFIED SHADOW*.

THAT EXPLAINS WHY THEY DIDN'T HAVE *HEARTBEATS*.

WE GOTTA GET MOVING. EVEN WITH YOU AROUND, BIG BOY, IT AIN'T *SAFE* TO STAY IN *ONE SPOT* LIKE THIS!

CAN YOU GIVE US A SECOND? CLARK AND I NEED TO *TALK*.

TWO THINGS. FIRST, I NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU A *COWARD* BACK AT THE OFFICE. OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE *NOT*.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, LOIS. I--

WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY SECOND POINT:

OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE *SOMETHING ELSE*.

REMEMBER A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, WHEN YOU CAME INTO THE OFFICE WITH YOUR FACE ALL *BRUISED UP?*

I TOLD YOU, JIMMY AND I--

--GOT CARRIED AWAY AT THE *BATTING CAGES*. I REMEMBER.

CLARK, YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING *SUPERMAN* SINCE HE FIRST CAME ON THE SCENE.

LATELY, I'VE NOTICED THAT HE'S GOTTEN SLOWER, WEAKER, *SLOPPIER*. HE GETS *HURT* IN WAYS HE DIDN'T USED TO.

I CAN ACTUALLY TRACK HIS *APPEARANCES* NOW, SO I'VE BEEN PUTTING IT ALL IN THIS *DATABASE*. WHENEVER I GET A FREE MOMENT, I GO THROUGH IT LOOKING FOR *PATTERNS*.

AT FIRST, I COULDN'T FIND ANY-- MAYBE A PART OF ME WANTED TO *IGNORE* WHAT THE PATTERNS WERE TRYING TO *SAY*.

YOU KNOW WHAT FINALLY GOT ME TO *STOP* IGNORING THE PATTERNS?

I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME.

YOU.

WHEN YOU CAME IN ALL *BUSTED UP*... IT WAS LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO *REENACT* MY LAST SET OF DATA. I BRUSHED IT OFF AS A *COINCIDENCE*.

BUT THEN I *TRIANGULATED* THE LOCATIONS OF ALL OF SUPERMAN'S APPEARANCES AND FOUND MORE *COINCIDENCES*.

AND THEN CONDESA FINDS US AND ALL THESE *CRAZY THINGS* HAPPEN, AND WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT *SECRETS*, SHE STARES AT YOU LIKE YOU'RE HIDING THE *BIGGEST SECRET IN THE WORLD*.

SHE WASN'T *STARING*--

AND THEN, JUST NOW, THOSE *NINJA GUYS* POP OUT OF NOWHERE AND YOU *BEAT* THEM TO SMITHEREENS. *LITERAL SMITHEREENS*.

SO I *KNOW* ALREADY, CLARK.

LOIS, WHAT ARE YOU--?!

BUT I STILL NEED TO KNOW *FOR SURE.*

OH, GOD.

LOIS, LET ME EXPLAIN--

EXPLAIN *WHAT?!* HOW SOMEONE WHO *SEEMS* SO *HONEST* AND *GOOD* CAN BE SO...SO *NOT?!*

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! KEEPING MY IDENTITY *SECRET* WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD BE *NORMAL!*

OR AT LEAST *NORMAL-ISH.*

YOU'RE *SUPERMAN!* WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BE *NORMAL?!*

...

I JUST DO.

WHO ELSE KNOWS? DOES JIMMY?

YES.

SO JIMMY GETS THE *TRUTH* AND I GET THE *LIE.*

LOIS, I--

YOU KNOW CONDESA KNOWS TOO, RIGHT? AND IF *SHE* KNOWS, HER ENTIRE *CRIME SYNDICATE* PROBABLY DOES!

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I ONLY KNOW 'CAUSE I'M ESPECIALLY CLOSE TO HORDR'S LEADER, A *MAD GENIUS* WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF *HORDR_ROOT.*

HE TOLD ME THAT YOU TWO ARE *TEXT BUDDIES,* CLARK.

HORDR_ROOT. SO *HE'S* THE ONE WHO'S BEEN THREATENING ME. HE'S THE ONE I NEED TO *TAKE DOWN.*

DOES HORDR HAVE A *HEADQUARTERS* OF SOME KIND?

A SECRET CAMPUS. YOU WANT IN? GET ME SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HARDWARE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

LET'S GO VISIT A FRIEND OF MINE.

GOTHAM CITY. TOYMASTER GAMESHOP.

THIS MASK IS LIKE AN *I.D. BADGE*. YOU CAN'T GET ON CAMPUS WITHOUT ONE. WE'RE GONNA NEED THREE MORE OF 'EM, HIRO.

I CAN REPLICATE THIS, *NO PROBLEM*. BUT THE SOFTWARE INSIDE--

IF YOU CAN *MAKE* IT, I CAN *PROGRAM* IT.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. YOU MIND HELPING OUT, BIG BLUE? YOUR *HEAT VISION* WILL MAKE THINGS EASIER.

SURE.

YOU KNOW HOW TO CODE?

YOU SURPRISED 'CAUSE I'M *BROWN* OR 'CAUSE I'M A *WOMAN*?

NO! I WASN'T-- I--I--

RELAX, RED. JUST GIVING YOU A *HARD TIME*. YOU KNOW YOUR FRECKLES GET *BRIGHTER* WHEN YOU'RE ALL FLUSTERED? IT'S KINDA *CUTE*.

REALLY?

Nah. NOT REALLY.

CONDESA, HOW'D YOU GET MIXED UP WITH HORDR?

THEY RECRUITED ME STRAIGHT OUTTA *GRAD SCHOOL*. AT FIRST IT WAS *FUN*. WHO DOESN'T WANT TO DIG UP *DIRT* ON ALL THE RICH *IDIOTAS* SCREWING UP THE WORLD?

BUT THEN THINGS GOT *CREEPY*...AND THEN *DOWNRIGHT SCARY*. THAT'S WHEN I CAME TO FIND YOU AND CLARK.

CONDESA, CAN YOU TELL ME IF THIS *REPLICA* WORKS?

THAT WAS FAST!

THEY DON'T CALL ME *TOYMASTER* FOR NOTHING, BABY!

WHO CALLS YOU *TOYMASTER* BESIDES YOU?

01001011 01000101 01001110 01010100

01001111 01001011

IT WORKS.

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

I SPOKE CODE DIRECTLY INTO IT. *BIG BOY* ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH *SUPERPOWERS.*

I THINK I'M IN LOVE.

THE NEXT MORNING. DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS.

HEY, CONDESA? MY MOM GOT ME THIS *PROGRAMMABLE TOASTER* LAST CHRISTMAS AND IT'S NEVER WORKED RIGHT. WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, MAYBE YOU COULD--

QUIET. HERE IT COMES.

WE'RE SNEAKING INTO THE *SUPER-SECRET* HEADQUARTERS OF A *SUPER-SECRET* CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION *BY BUS?*

THIS AIN'T JUST ANY BUS, IT'S THE *HORDR_BUS.* PUT ON YOUR *MASKS NOW.*

THE BUS EMITS A *HOLOGRAPHIC FIELD*--YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH IT WITHOUT A *MASK.*

THESE FOLKS ALL WORK FOR HORDR?

YEP.

FWOOOSH

WE'RE NOT ON THE *ROAD* ANYMORE!

LOIS...

SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO GRAB YOUR HAND LIKE THAT.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT. I JUST WANTED TO SAY *THANK YOU.*

FOR WHAT?

FOR COMING WITH ME. EVER SINCE I MOVED TO METROPOLIS, I HAVEN'T HAD ANYONE WHO'S BEEN A PART OF *BOTH HALVES* OF MY LIFE.

YOU AND JIMMY ARE THE FIRST. IT MEANS A *LOT.*

CLARK... *STOP.*

STOP WHAT?

I USED TO THINK OF YOU AS A *PARTNER,* TOO... A *FRIEND.*

UNTIL *YESTERDAY.*

LOIS...

GET YOUR MASKS BACK ON, LOVEBIRDS--

CLARK AND I AREN'T--

WELCOME TO HORDR'S CAMPUS IN THE CLOUDS--

--THE *HORDR_PLEX.*

FFFSSHHH...

WHOA...

COFFEE, ANYONE?

CAN I GET A *CARAMEL LATTE?*

OF COURSE.

THIS PLACE ISN'T *EVIL!* IT'S *AWESOME!*

ALL THESE *SMILING* PEOPLE AROUND YOU? THEY'RE ALL *FORCED* TO WORK HERE.

HORDR'S GOT A *SECRET* ON EVERY ONE OF 'EM. IF THEY *QUIT,* THEY GET *EXPOSED.*

ZZZHHH...

JUST IN TIME FOR *MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS.*

GOOD MORNING, HORDR_HORDE! WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR TODAY?

WE'RE GONNA REMAKE THE WORLD, HORDR_ROOT!

HA HA! GOOD, GOOD.

I'M SORRY TO START THE DAY ON A **DOWNER,** EVERYONE, BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO SKIP OUR USUAL **MORNING NICETIES.**

HORDR_ SURVEILLANCE REPORTS THAT WE, sort of, HAVE A **SITUATION** HERE AT THE **HORDR_PLEX.**

APPARENTLY, THREE **GUESTS** HAVE CHOSEN TO JOIN US WITHOUT FIRST GETTING THE **PROPER CLEARANCES.**

HORDR_SECURITY IS WORKING TO DETAIN THEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, PLEASE REPORT TO YOUR **WORK AREAS** IMMEDIATELY.

HEY, WHERE'D CONDESA GO?!

KEEP CALM. NO ONE SUSPECTS US YET.

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

YOU THREE! STOP!

HANG TIGHT.

FWOOOSH

Ugh...I FEEL LIKE I LEFT MY ***STOMACH*** BACK THERE.

YOU LOOKING FOR CONDESA WITH YOUR ***X-RAY VISION?***

YEP. NO SIGN OF HER, BUT I DO SEE SOMETHING ELSE...

KRACK

WOW... WHAT *IS* THIS, THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COLLECTION OF *EMBARRASSING VIDEOS?*

IT'S MORE THAN JUST *VIDEOS.*

BANK ACCOUNT STATEMENTS... HEALTH RECORDS... FAMILY HISTORIES...

EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO *HIDE* ABOUT YOURSELF, EVERY *MISTAKE* YOU'VE MADE, EVERY *UNPLEASANT FACT...*

...IT'S ALL STORED *HERE.*

IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?

MY FRIENDS, YOU'RE STANDING IN WHAT IS, *sort of,* THIS DIMENSION'S *MOST ADVANCED DATA CENTER.*

EACH OF THOSE DISPLAY UNITS ISN'T JUST A DISPLAY UNIT. IT'S A SHEET OF *ALIEN CRYSTAL* THAT CAN STORE ABOUT A *ZETTABYTE* OF DATA PER *SQUARE INCH.*

YOU MUST BE *HORDR_ROOT.*

AFTER GETTING TO KNOW YOU OVER *TEXT*, IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU IN PERSON, *CLARK!*

I'M FOREVER INDEBTED TO MY DARLING *CONDESA* FOR THE *INTRODUCTION.*

LOOKS LIKE SENATOR NORVELL WASN'T THE ONLY *PAWN.*

...

SUPERMAN, THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN A, *sort of*, *EXTENDED JOB INTERVIEW.* I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'D BE A GOOD FIT FOR THE *HORDR_HORDE.*

I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT YOU *ARE.*

WHAT?

THE *FUTURE* BELONGS TO THOSE WHO CONTROL *INFORMATION.*

HERE AT *HORDR*, INFORMATION ISN'T JUST OUR *BUSINESS*, IT'S, *sort of*, OUR *OBSESSION.*

SO COME, *MAN OF TOMORROW*, JOIN THE *FUTURE.*

JOIN HORDR.

YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU'RE THE *FUTURE? LOWLIFES* LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE THE *BEGINNING OF TIME.*

BENEATH ALL THAT *FANCY TECHNOLOGY*, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER *POWER-HUNGRY CRIMINAL* EXTORTING PEOPLE FOR *WHAT YOU WANT.*

Sigh YOU DO REALIZE I'M JUST BEING *POLITE*, RIGHT? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE A *CHOICE.*

REFUSE ME AND HORDR WILL RELEASE YOUR *SECRET* TO THE WORLD. FOLKS YOU *LOVE* WILL GET *HURT*, MAYBE EVEN *KILLED.*

LET ME GIVE A, sort of, PREVIEW OF WHAT THAT'LL BE LIKE.

HORDR_ SECURITY?

LET'S GO.

KRUNK

PSY

KRUNCH

JIMMY! LOIS! IT'S TIME TO TAKE THIS PLACE *DOWN!*

YOU'RE GONNA *SOLAR FLARE?!*

THAT'S THE EXPLODEY-THING HE DOES, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

YEAH, I DO.

DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO STOP *HORDR_ROOT* FROM *ESCAPING!*

THEN FIND A WAY TO *WARN* THE WORKERS AND GET THEM OFF THE *HORDR_PLEX!*

I CAN HOLD THESE GUYS OFF FOR ANOTHER *TEN MINUTES,* TOPS!

GO!

CONDESA!

KRK

OW!

YOU--

≥cough! cough!≤

--KNOW JUDO, TOO?

WHUMP

RED?! THANK GOD YOU'RE ALIVE! I THOUGHT FOR SURE HORDR_ROOT WAS GONNA KILL YOU!

HE ALMOST DID KILL US! BECAUSE OF YOU, BLUE!

"BLUE"?

YOU CALL ME *RED*, SO I FIGURED *BLUE*...

OH. RIGHT.

NOW, BACK TO HOW YOU ALMOST GOT US *KILLED*--

HOW COULD YOU BETRAY US LIKE THAT?!

YOU THINK I *WANTED* TO?! BUT I GOT A *SECRET* TOO, RED.

LOOK, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH... *I'M SORRY.* I'VE NEVER BEEN SO SORRY ABOUT ANYTHING IN ALL MY *LIFE*.

WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO *MAKE IT UP* TO US--

ENJOYING THE SHOW, HORDR_ROOT?

WHACK

YOU...

...YOU'RE JUST A *KID!*

WHO'S *REALLY* BEHIND THIS?!

Ngh...

LET'S SEE IF YOU CONTINUE TO *UNDERESTIMATE* ME WHEN YOU'RE CHOKING ON YOUR OWN *BLOOD.*

HOW ABOUT YOU GAIN ANOTHER *THIRTY POUNDS* BEFORE YOU START MAKING *THREATS* LIKE THAT?!

HA HA.

WHAT--?!

THIS BODY IS A, *sort of,* *NODE* FOR ME, MS. LANE.

ONE OF *MANY.* IT'S NO LONGER *USEFUL,* SO I'M *DISCARDING* IT.

SSSSHHH

ZZZAHHH...

THIS THING ON?

Um...HELLO, EVERYBODY! MY NAME IS... uh, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I AM.

JUST LISTEN! YOU GUYS NEED TO GET OFF THE HORDR_PLEX NOW, 'CAUSE STUFF IS ABOUT TO GO DOWN!

SERIOUSLY. LEAVE NOW!

Pshaw. WHO'S THAT GUY THINK HE IS?! WE'RE NOT GONNA *ABANDON* OUR POSTS JUST BECAUSE *SOME IDIOT* TELLS US TO!

YEAH!

MAYBE...

BUT WHEN'S THE LAST TIME *SOME IDIOT'S* GOTTEN A HOLD OF HORDR_ROOT'S ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM?

RUN!

HNGH!

KRUNCH

SUPERMAN.

WHO...

WHO ARE YOU?!

HKGAAAH!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME...?

CRUMBLE CRUMBLE

LOOKS LIKE HE *FLARED!*

THE ENTIRE CAMPUS HAS BEEN *DESTABILIZED!* GO FIND BIG BOY, *QUICK!*

OH NO... AGAIN?!

WHY'S HE KEEP GETTING SO BEAT UP?!

THIS WAY! HURRY!

CRUMBLE RUMBLE

AFTER WHAT SHE DID, YOU SURE WE CAN TRUST HER?

NO, BUT I *AM* SURE WE DON'T HAVE A *CHOICE*.

01000111 01001111

01001111 01001011

KRA-KOOOM

BE OKAY, CLARK...

PLEASE BE OKAY...

JR
JR
JAMSON
WHITE

DC Bombshells variant cover for issue #43 by DES TAYLOR.

BEFORE TRUTH PART 3

GENE LUEN YANG: writer JOHN ROMITA, JR.: penciller KLAUS JANSON & SCOTT HANNA: inkers
DEAN WHITE, LEONARDO OLEA, BLOND: colorists ROB LEIGH: letterer
ROMITA, JR., JANSON, WHITE: cover DES TAYLOR: bombshell variant cover

LOIS...?!

CLARK!

ANDREW MARINO: assistant editor

WHERE AM I?

SOMEWHERE SAFE.

EDDIE BERGANZA: group editor

THIS IS YOUR APARTMENT? *YOUR BED?*

COULDN'T PUT SUPERMAN ON THE *FLOOR*, COULD WE?

CLARK! YOU'RE UP!

HAD US *SCARED* FOR A MINUTE, BIG BOY. YOU'VE BEEN *UNCONSCIOUS* FOR MORE'N A DAY.

YOU HUNGRY? I'LL GO FIX YOU SOMETHING TO EAT.

SHE MUST BE REALLY *WORRIED*. LOIS *NEVER* FIXES ANYBODY ANYTHING TO EAT.

WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES?

CAPE'S IN THE WASH. YOU BURNED EVERYTHING ELSE TO *ASH* WHEN YOU FLARED.

SO YOU GUYS, *uh*... WHAT I MEAN IS, LOIS AND CONDESA SAW--?

COME ON, WE'RE ALL ADULTS HERE.

RUMOR IS THAT YOU'RE AN *ALIEN*, BUT YOU LOOKED PRETTY *HUMAN* TO ME.

IMPRESSIVELY HUMAN.

CLARK, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TALK TO YOU...

WHAT IF HORDR FOUND OUT ABOUT *YOU* BECAUSE OF *ME?*

BUT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY!

AND I *DIDN'T!* AT LEAST, NOT ON *PURPOSE*. BUT WHAT IF I *SLIPPED UP* SOMEWHERE?

I KEEP GOING OVER EVERY *INTERACTION* I'VE HAD SINCE YOU TOLD ME, *OVER AND OVER* IN MY HEAD, AND I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...

YOU TRUSTED ME WITH THE *BIGGEST SECRET* OF YOUR *LIFE*. WHAT IF YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE?

JIMMY, IT'S NOT YOUR *FAULT*. YOU DON'T KNOW *HORDR* LIKE I DO. THEY FOUND OUT BEFORE YOU DID, I GUARANTEE.

TELL HIM, CLARK.

...

MAN, THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT'VE DONE SOMETHING TO LEAD TO ALL THIS MAKES MY STOMACH HURT.

LITERALLY HURT.

YOU'RE LOOKIN' PALE, RED. WHICH, ON ACCOUNT OF HOW YOU STARTED, MAKES YOU *TRANSLUCENT*. HOW 'BOUT YOU GO LIE DOWN ON THE COUCH?

JIMMY OKAY?

I THINK SO.

BEEF BOURGUIGNON *LEAN CUISINE*. ONLY THE *BEST* FOR THE MAN OF STEEL.

THANK YOU.

LISTEN. I'VE BEEN REPORTING ON SUPERMAN FOR A FEW *YEARS* NOW, YET THERE'S STILL *SO MUCH* ABOUT YOU I DON'T KNOW.

LIKE, WHY'D YOU CHOOSE METROPOLIS?

ARE YOU FOLLOWING SOME KIND OF MASTER PLAN?

WHAT? *NO!*

WHAT'S TO STOP YOU FROM GOING ROGUE SOMEDAY?

WHAT'S HUMANITY SUPPOSED TO DO THEN?

WHERE'D YOU GET THIS NEW SOLAR FLARE POWER?

ARE YOU IN FULL CONTROL OF IT?

IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BLOW UP ON ACCIDENT, AND MAYBE TAKE AN ENTIRE CITY BLOCK WITH YOU?

I PROMISE YOU, I--

THESE ARE QUESTIONS THE *PUBLIC* NEEDS ANSWERED, DON'T YOU THINK?

QUESTIONS *I* NEED ANSWERED.

LOIS...

BUT THEN...

BACK IN HORDR'S *DATA CENTER,* I SAW THIS *VIDEO* OF YOU-- *CAPE* YOU, NOT *GLASSES* YOU.

IT WAS FROM A FEW YEARS AGO. YOU WERE STILL WEARING THAT GOOFY *BRIGHT BLUE T-SHIRT.*

THEY HAD YOU STRAPPED TO AN *ELECTRIC CHAIR.*

I REMEMBER.

I KNEW ABOUT THE INCIDENT ALREADY. I KNEW WHAT LEX AND MY FATHER DID TO YOU:

THEY KNOCKED YOU OUT WITH A *HIGH-SPEED TRAIN,* THEN TOOK YOU TO AN ARMY RESEARCH FACILITY.

THEY HAD *QUESTIONS,* TOO, SO THEY *BRUTALIZED* YOU TO TRY AND GET *ANSWERS.*

I KNEW ABOUT *ALL THAT,* BUT TO ACTUALLY *SEE* IT...

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THAT IMAGE OF *YOU IN THE CHAIR* OUT OF MY MIND.

I'M NOT LIKE *THEM,* CLARK. I'M NOT WILLING TO *BRUTALIZE* YOU FOR ANSWERS, NOT EVEN IN *PRINT.*

I'VE DECIDED TO KEEP YOUR *SECRET.*

THANK YOU. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH THAT MEANS TO ME.

BESIDES, MAYBE I ALREADY *HAVE* MY ANSWERS. YOU MAY BE *SUPERMAN,* BUT YOU'RE STILL *CLARK KENT.*

AND I *KNOW* CLARK KENT. I KNOW THE GUY I ALMOST *FELL IN LOVE* WITH.

LOIS...!

I-I'M WITH SOMEONE ALREADY, SOMEONE WHO'S *MORE* THAN JUST A GIRLFRIEND. SHE'S A *TRUE--*

OH, RELAX. I'VE GOT SOMEONE NOW, TOO.

AND BESIDES, I KNOW I'M NOT *MYTHOLOGICAL* ENOUGH FOR YOUR TASTES.

BUT BEING *FRIENDS*...THAT'S SOMETHING, TOO, RIGHT?

LOIS, CAN YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

ANYTHING.

STAB ME.

BLAAARGH!

POOR BABY. MAYBE WE OUGHTA CALL THE DOCTOR.

NO DOCTOR. NOT UNTIL WE GET THINGS FIGURED OUT WITH CLARK.

I JUST GOTTA *REST.* STAY WITH ME, BLUE? JUST FOR A BIT?

I AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE.

VVVZZZ

PLUNK

YOU DONE, YOU THINK?

I HOPE SO.

FLUSH

CLOP CLOP CLOP

OW.

I AM SO SORRY!

NOTHING TO BE SORRY ABOUT. I ASKED YOU TO DO IT.

MY POWERS SHOULD BE *BACK* BY NOW, BUT THEY'RE *NOT.* AT LEAST NOT *ALL THE WAY.*

MAYBE YOU JUST NEED MORE SLEEP.

VWZZZ

I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.

CLICK

DURING MY *FLARE* IN THE HORDR_PLEX, I SAW A *FIGURE* WALK UP TO ME. I THOUGHT HE WAS SOME SORT OF WEIRD *OPTICAL ILLUSION*...

BUT THEN I *FELT* IT, A *PULL* FROM DEEP INSIDE, LIKE HE WAS *SIPHONING AWAY* MY ENERGY.

VWZZZ

PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL *JIMMY.*

WHAT THE HELL?!

I KNOW. BUT JIMMY AND I NEED TO SORT THROUGH SOME--

NO, NOT "WHAT THE HELL" *JIMMY*-- "WHAT THE HELL" *THAT!*

I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING, MY FRIENDS.

HORDR-ROOT!

WHAT'D YOU DO TO MY PHONE?!

THIS? THIS BODY IS A, sort of, **SELF-ASSEMBLING ANDROID.** VERY **CUTTING-EDGE.** HA HA.

YOUR FRIEND JIMMY SHOULDN'T BE SO QUICK TO ACCEPT **CARAMEL LATTES** FROM STRANGERS.

WHAT YOU DID REALLY **HURT** ME, SUPERMAN. **A LOT.**

THE DATA YOU DESTROYED WILL TAKE US **YEARS** TO GATHER AGAIN.

LUCKILY, I KEEP BACKUPS OF THE REALLY **CRITICAL STUFF** WITHIN **EASY REACH.**

THAT'S THE THING ABOUT **SECRETS** IN THE **INFORMATION AGE**-- ONCE THEY'RE **OUT,** THEY'RE **IMPOSSIBLE** TO GET BACK **IN.**

ALL THAT **EFFORT,** ALL THAT **DESTRUCTION,** AND OUR ARRANGEMENT IS, sort of, THE SAME AS **BEFORE.**

YOU WILL **DO AS I SAY,** SUPERMAN, OR I WILL **REVEAL** YOU TO THE WORLD.

I'M TEXTING **COORDINATES** TO THIS PHONE. MEET ME IN EXACTLY **ONE HOUR.**

WHAT IS GOING ON?!

WHACK

NO!

STILL WORKS... THANK GOD IT STILL WORKS!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO *DO* WHAT HE *SAYS!*

LOIS, I HAVE TO AT LEAST *PLAY ALONG,* BUY SOME TIME SO I CAN FIGURE OUT MY *NEXT MOVE.*

SO THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO. YOU *BUY TIME,* I'LL *INVESTIGATE.*

HORDR_ROOT MUST HAVE A *SECRET* OF HIS OWN, SOME KIND OF *WEAKNESS* THAT WE CAN USE AGAINST HIM. UNCOVERING THAT SORT OF THING IS *WHAT I DO.*

NO. THIS IS *MY* PROBLEM. *I'M* GOING TO HANDLE IT.

CLARK, YOU SAID YOU WERE *HAPPY* THAT I'M A PART OF *BOTH HALVES* OF YOUR LIFE, REMEMBER? SO LET ME *BE* THAT. LET ME BE A PART OF *BOTH HALVES.*

I *WANT* TO BE A PART OF BOTH HALVES.

GOOD. I WOULD'VE FOUND A WAY TO *FOLLOW ALONG,* BUT IT'S BETTER LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU THINK?

...

FINE.

LET'S GET GOING.

END OF THE ROAD.

THE COORDINATES ARE ANOTHER MILE NORTH-- MUST BE THE TOP OF THAT ***MOUNTAIN.*** I CAN FLY US UP THERE.

I THOUGHT YOUR POWERS WEREN'T ALL THE WAY BACK YET.

ROAD ENDS

SO IT'LL BE MORE OF A ***GIANT LEAP.*** HOP ON.

YOU'RE GONNA CARRY ME LIKE WE'RE GETTING ***MARRIED*** IN THE '50S?

EITHER THAT OR I CARRY YOU BY YOUR ***ARMPITS.***

THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU. GO.

I DON'T FEEL RIGHT LEAVING YOU HERE.

YOU DON'T NEED ME TO HOLD YOUR HAND. YOU'LL BE *OKAY.*

THAT'S NOT WHAT I *MEANT--*

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT, CLARK. I APPRECIATE THE *CONCERN,* BUT LIKE I SAID, THIS IS *WHAT I DO.* I'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

NOW GO.

SUPERMAN. WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH. WHERE IS HE?

SHNK

PLEASE. YOU THINK A COUPLE OF *METAL BRACELETS* CAN HOLD ME?!

YOU'RE *FORGETTING* WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH.

KRCHHH

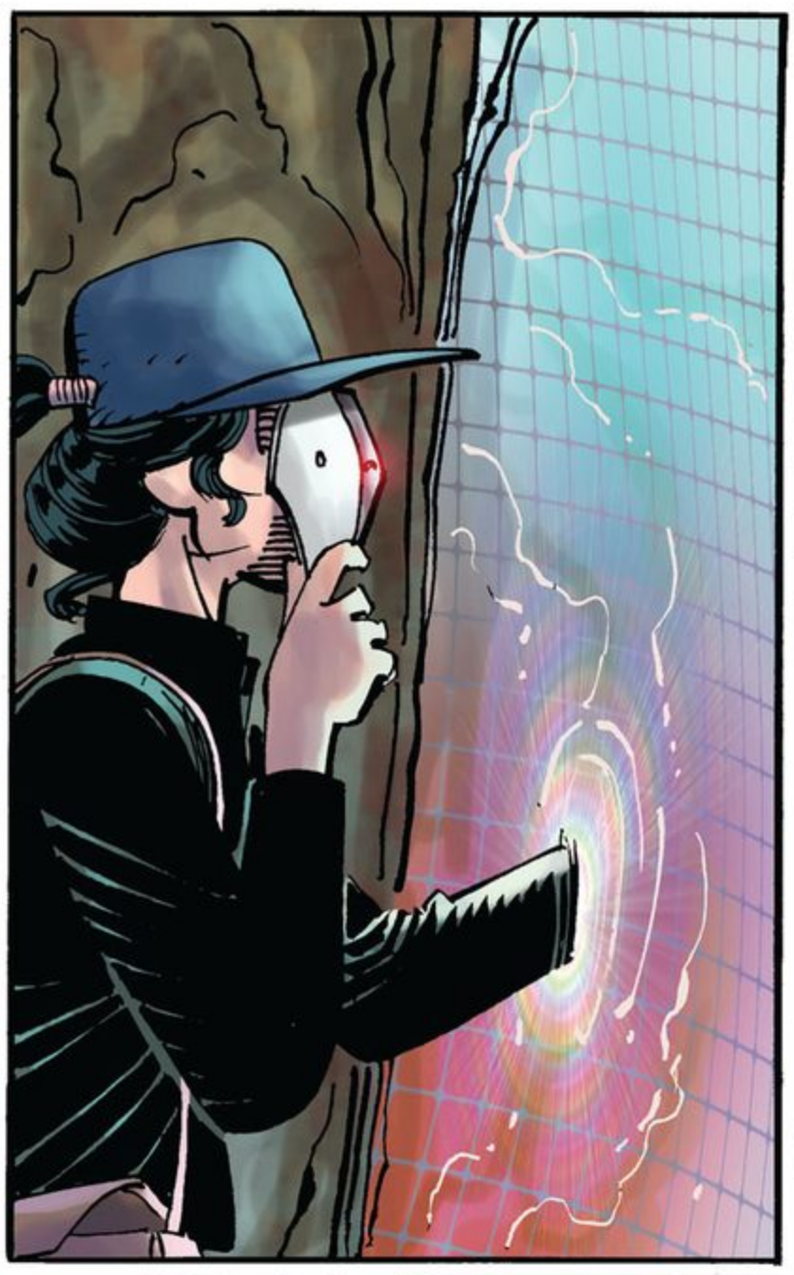
AND *YOU,* SUPERMAN--

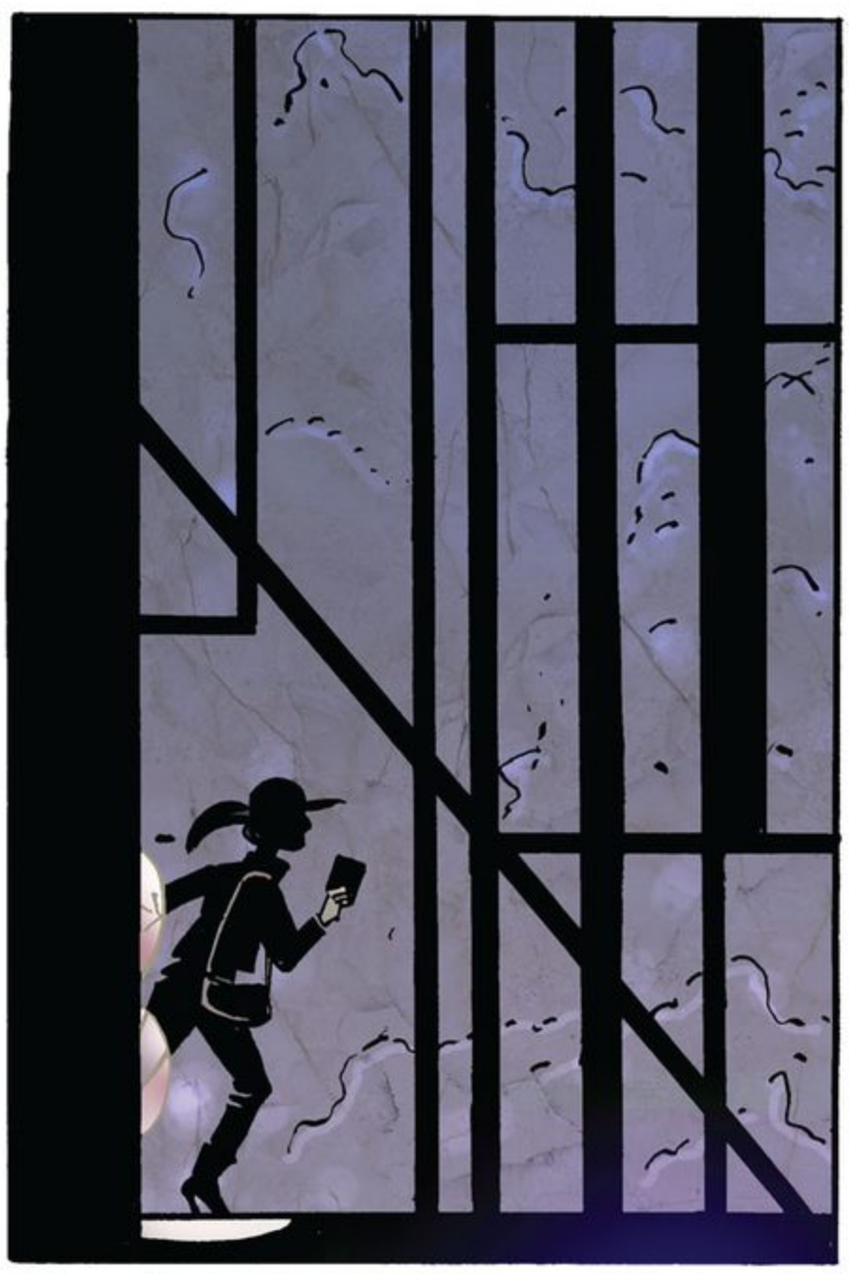
--ARE FORGETTING OUR *ARRANGEMENT.*

PLAY NICELY, *CLARK.*

ALL RIGHT. I'LL PLAY ALONG.

FOR NOW.





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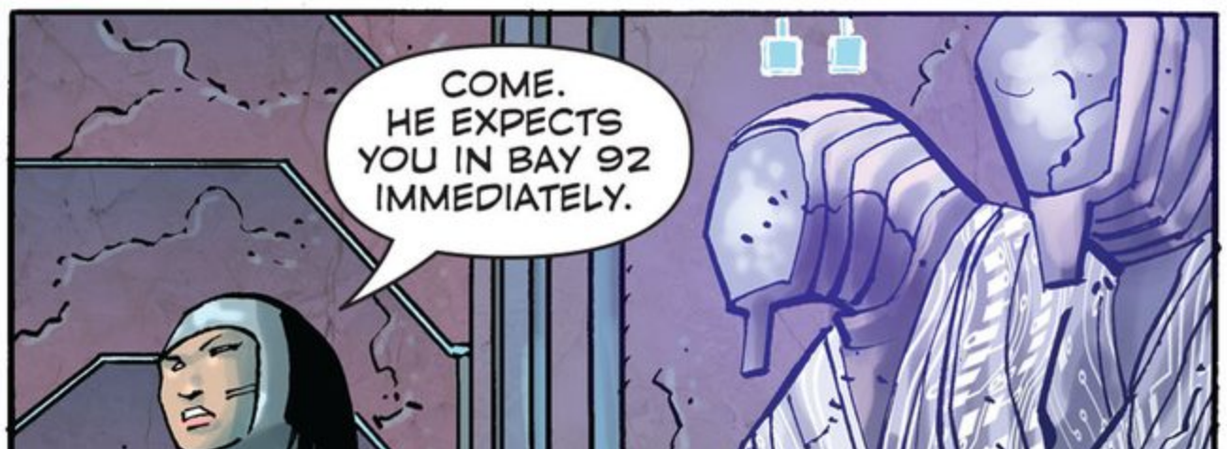

COME.
HE EXPECTS YOU IN BAY 92 IMMEDIATELY.

THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IS HERE.
32

38

THAT SMELL...

OH, GOD.

ALL RIGHT, LOIS. KEEP IT TOGETHER AND DO YOUR JOB.

SNAP

YOU'VE SEEN DEAD BODIES BEFORE.

YOU'VE SEEN...

BEFORE...

I MUST SAY, YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER AS *SUPERMAN* THAN AS *CLARK KENT*.

I'VE RUN OUT OF *PATIENCE* AND THESE LITTLE *RESTRAINTS* OF YOURS ARE STARTING TO *TICKLE*.

YOU'VE GOT EXACTLY *THIRTY SECONDS* TO TELL ME, BEFORE I BRING THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAIN DOWN ON YOUR *HEAD*:

WHAT. DO. YOU. WANT?!

ALL ABOUT BUSINESS. *HA HA.* I LIKE THAT.

MY REQUEST IS SIMPLE.

THIS NEW POWER OF YOURS--YOUR *SOLAR FLARE*. I'D LIKE A *DEMONSTRATION*.

I BELIEVE YOU'VE ALREADY MET ONE OF THE *QUARMERS*? THEY'RE OUR *ENERGY STORAGE EXPERTS*.

THAT'S IT. WE'RE DONE.

KRK

KRK

BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ***RASH***, LET ME EXPLAIN:

BY MY ***CALCULATIONS***, IT WILL TAKE YOU JUST UNDER ***HALF A SECOND*** TO GET TO ME--OR MORE ACCURATELY, MY LATEST ***NODE***. THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO UNLEASH YOUR IDENTITY INTO ***CYBERSPACE***.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCREENS BELOW, SUPERMAN. JUST ***SOME*** OF THE FOLKS YOU'LL HAVE TO ***BURY*** IF THAT HAPPENS.

WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

HKGAAAH

SUPERMAN!

CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

DON'T LET THEM DO THIS TO YOU!

TAKE CARE OF HER, HORDR_SECURITY!

SUPERMAN...

CLARK.

LISTEN TO ME.

I DID IT.

JUST NOW.

"I TOLD THE WORLD--"

PTAK S

EXENZO

НАТЯЖНЫЕ ПОТЛКИ

"--ABOUT *HORDR*, BUT ALSO ABOUT *YOU*."

Hrn.

THEY DON'T HAVE *ANYTHING* ON YOU ANYMORE.

YOU'RE FREE.

KRK...

KRRROOM

STOP, LOIS LANE! YOU--

KRSH

KRUNK

CLARK... YOU'RE OKAY!

WHY, LOIS?!

Sigh

YOU HAD NO RIGHT! I WOULD'VE FIGURED IT OUT!

EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE *OKAY*, YOU HEAR ME?! WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!

STOP.

DO YOU EVEN GET WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!

I DID IT TO SAVE YOU!

I'M JUST ONE PERSON! YOU CAN'T RISK DOZENS OF LIVES FOR JUST ME!

TELL ME YOU WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THE SAME FOR ME, CLARK. TELL ME YOU WOULDN'T HAVE RISKED DOZENS OF LIVES TO SAVE ME.

THEN, MAYBE, YOU GET TO JUDGE--

WHUP- WHUP- WHUP- WHUP

--ME.

ATTENTION, KRYPTONIAN! THIS IS GENERAL LANE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY!

WE HAVE KRYPTONITE-LOADED ARMAMENTS TRAINED ON YOU.

YOU WILL STEP AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER AND SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY!

I WAS WRONG, LOIS.

IT WAS BETTER WHEN YOU WEREN'T A PART OF BOTH HALVES.

CLARK, WAIT!

Green Lantern 75th Anniversary variant cover for issue #44 by **KEVIN NOWLAN.**

KEVIN NOWLAN 2015

CLINTON STREET, METROPOLIS.

ALL RIGHT, Y'ALL. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TWO BLOCKS AWAY FROM *CLARK KENT'S* APARTMENT BUILDING--

BEFORE TRUTH PART 4

GENE LUEN YANG: writer JOHN ROMITA, JR.: penciller KLAUS JANSON: inker

--*SUPERMAN'S* APARTMENT BUILDING.

I DUNNO, SIS. DON'T SUPERMAN LIVE IN THE *CLOUDS?* I HEARD SOMEWHERE HE LIVES IN THE *CLOUDS*.

OF ALL THE-- *NO,* SUPERMAN DOESN'T LIVE IN THE CLOUDS!

NOW SHUT YOUR *FAT MOUTH!* YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!

YOUR MOUTH IS WAY FATTER'N MINE.

DEAN WHITE & LEONARDO OLEA: colorists ROB LEIGH: letterer
AARON KUDER, JANSON & WHITE: cover KEVIN NOWLAN: Green Lantern 75th anniversary variant cover

DEAR, NEXT TIME WE NEED A NEW *ACE* AND *TEN,* REMIND ME NOT TO HIRE SIBLINGS.

DULY NOTED.

HA HA! LOOK *ALIVE,* GANG! OVER ON THE SIDEWALK--

ANDREW MARINO: assistant editor EDDIE BERGANZA: group editor

JACKPOT!

KZARPT

NGFF!

WHO--?!

GOOD EVENING, MR. KENT.

I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT ONCE UPON A TIME, YOU HAD THE ABILITY TO CRUSH *COAL* INTO *DIAMONDS*.

YOU LIVE NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE, NO? THE *ROYAL FLUSH GANG* WOULD LOVE TO COME OVER FOR A *VISIT*.

SORRY, BUDDY. MY BUILDING'S GOT A *NO SOLICITORS* POLICY.

KZARPT KZARPT KZARPT

"SOLICITORS"? *Harumph.*

GANG, MR. KENT'S IN NEED OF A LESSON ON ***MANNERS.***

TEN! DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU ***MOUTH-BREATHING MONKEY!***

GO EARN YOUR KEEP!

BAP

...

KRUSH

FZRRRP

WHOMP

ALL RIGHT, YOU *WIN*, SUPERMAN! I *SURRENDER*.

JUST GIMME A MINUTE TO *TAKE CARE* OF SOMETHING. I'LL COME RIGHT BACK AND YOU CAN PUT ME IN JAIL OR WHATEVER. I PROMISE.

HEY, KING! DON'T YOU *EVER* DISRESPECT MY BROTHER LIKE THAT! YOU FEEL ME?!

LAY ANOTHER DAMN FINGER ON HIM, AND I WILL *END* YOU!

BASH

I SWEAR, *I WILL END YOU!*

BASH BASH BASH

BASH
BASH

STOP! STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

IT'S OVER!

WEEE-OOO-WEEE-OOO-WEEE-OOO

WE CAN'T ALL BE *FASTER* THAN A *SPEEDING BULLET*, SUPERMAN. THIS IS HOW THE *REST OF US* PROTECT *OUR OWN.*

MPD

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, OFFICER.

MR. KENT...?

Uh, *SUPERMAN?*

ALL AVAILABLE UNITS, REPORT TO THE *DAILY PLANET.* WE'VE GOT A *HOSTAGE SITUATION.* I REPEAT, ALL AVAILABLE UNITS--

I'M REAL SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT I GOTTA BRING YOU IN. THE *FEDS*--

Sigh WHAT A NIGHT. LIKE I WAS SAYING--

SUPERMAN?

MPD

Aw, MAN. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE *GUY WITH THE EARS* WHO DID THAT.

METRO POLICE

...AND I DON'T GET WHY YOU HAD TO PICK *ME* AS YOUR *HUMAN SHIELD!* KENT AND I AREN'T EVEN THAT *CLOSE!*

SHUT UP, LOMBARD.

I SAID, *SHUT UP!*

HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW HE'S GONNA FLY IN *THIS* WAY, ANYWAY? WHAT IF HE FLIES IN FROM THE *OTHER SIDE?* WON'T THAT BE EGG ON YOUR FACE?

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! *GEEZ.*

...

HEY, ARE THE *DUDE VILLAINS* AS TOUCHY AS *YOU?*

OR IS IT MORE OF A *CHICK VILLAIN* THING?

YOU KNOW WHAT? *DON'T SHUT UP.*

GIVE ME AN *EXCUSE* TO FRY YOUR--

LIVEWIRE!

KZZZT

DING

LET. HIM. GO.

KRACKLE

CLARKIE! BUDDY! OLD PAL! BEST FRIEND! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

SO, *ah*, YOU GONNA GET ME OUTTA THIS, OR WHAT?

STEVE, BE *HELPFUL*. BE *QUIET*.

KZZZT

SUPERMAN! ONE MORE STEP AND I'LL *ELECTRIFY* HIS BRAINS TO *MUSH!*

IT'D PROBABLY BE AN *IMPROVEMENT.*

TH-THAT'S *N-NOT FUNNY*, CLARKIE! NOT FUNNY *AT ALL!*

KRZK--

KZZ ZAPK

RUN!

YOU DON'T GOTTA TELL *ME* TWICE!

AW... *ONE* GOT AWAY.

GOOD THING WE GOT AN *OFFICE* FULL OF 'EM.

KRZAPP

ALMOST *TOO GOOD* TO BE TRUE, AIN'T IT?

SUPERMAN REALLY *IS* JUST A DWEEB NAMED *CLARK KENT.*

MORE COFFEE?

LOIS... HEAR ME OUT FOR A SECOND.

WHAT...? OH.

NO, THANKS, DAD.

GOD KNOWS WE'VE LOCKED HORNS MORE'N ONCE ABOUT THE ***CHOICES*** YOU'VE MADE, ESPECIALLY ABOUT YOUR ***CAREER.***

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, I WAS ***WORRIED,*** IS ALL. AS A ***FATHER.*** I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HOW YOUR ***WORK ENVIRONMENT*** WOULD AFFECT YOUR ***THINKING.***

BUT NOW, *uh*...I, *um*... WELL...

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT... THAT...

WHAT YOU DID TOOK ***GUTS.***

YOU'VE DONE OUR NATION--OUR ***WORLD,*** REALLY--A ***GREAT SERVICE.***

AND I AM MIGHTY, MIGHTY ***PROUD*** TO BE YOUR ***FATHER.***

THIS JUST IN: THE ***MAN OF STEEL*** *HIMSELF HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING AND IS NOW* ***ENGAGING*** *WITH THE PERPETRATORS!*

DAD, SEND IN YOUR ***TROOPS.***

DON'T YOU WORRY, WE'VE CONTACTED THE ***LOCAL AUTHORITIES.*** HE'LL BE BROUGHT IN SOON ENOUGH.

NO, NOT TO BRING HIM IN! TO ***HELP*** HIM SAVE THE PEOPLE IN THAT OFFICE!

PLEASE, DAD. HE'S *IMPORTANT* TO ME.

OF COURSE, HE'S THE MOST *IMPORTANT* NEWS STORY OF THE *DECADE!* THE *FOREIGN POLICY* IMPLICATIONS ALONE--

NO, NOT AS A *NEWS STORY.*

HE'S IMPORTANT TO ME AS A *FRIEND.*

FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION, GENERAL LANE, BUT THESE MEN INSISTED ON SEEING YOU *RIGHT AWAY.*

GIVE ME A *MOMENT.*

DAD, HE DOESN'T *HAVE* A MOMENT!

HAD ENOUGH, "CLARKIE"?

GOTTA TELL YOU--

WHA--?!

--I'VE ALWAYS *HATED* IT WHEN PEOPLE CALL ME THAT.

KZZZRT

KZZZT..

SHOCKWAVE! KILLER FROST! MOVE OUTTA THE--

KZZAPKT

NGH

AARGH!

BERSERK

WHERE ARE YOU KEEPING THEM?! *TELL ME NOW!*

YOU THINK IT'S GONNA BE THAT EASY, "CLARKIE"?

I SAID--

RAAAGH!

KRUNK

CROC! WHAT WHERE YOU'RE--

WHAM

OOF!

--DON'T CALL ME *CLARKIE!*

WHACK

NGFF!

KRUNK

MOVE, SKULL! MOVE!

NO NO NO!

GHF!

KRUNCH

LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN.

WHERE ARE THEY, CROC?

OFFICE AT THE END OF THE HALL... UH, MR. KENT.

P. WHITE

SEE? I TOLD YOU GUYS HE'D COME!

CLARK KENT. REMEMBER ME?

I USED TO WORK HERE. I BROUGHT YOU YOUR *MAIL* EVERY DAY. WE USED TO JOKE AROUND ABOUT THE *MONARCHS*, REMEMBER?

IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO REMEMBER YOU, HOW ABOUT LOSING THE MASK?

YEAH... *DYLAN*, RIGHT?

LET'S END THIS PEACEFULLY *RIGHT NOW*.

TWO MONTHS AGO, TITANO THREW A *SUBWAY TRAIN* HALFWAY ACROSS THE CITY.

EVERYONE ON BOARD WAS KILLED, INCLUDING MY *WIFE*.

I WAS A *WRECK*... COULDN'T HOLD ON TO MY JOB... IT ALL SEEMED SO *RANDOM*...

BRAPPA BRAPPA

BRAPPA

UNTIL *EARLIER TONIGHT,* WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE *SUPERMAN!*

SO IT WASN'T *RANDOM* AFTER ALL--TITANO HURT *ME* BECAUSE I WAS CONNECTED TO *YOU!*

BRAPPA BRAPPA

MY WIFE DIED BECAUSE OF YOU!

BRAPPA BRAPPA

STOP!

BRAPPA

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR WIFE, DYLAN, BUT YOU'RE NOT THINKING *CLEARLY!*

BRAPPA BRAPPA

BRAPPA

BRAPPA BRAPPA BRAPPA BRAPPA

GUFF!

EVERYONE--

>cough<

--ALL RIGHT?

KENT... WHY...?

IT'S *OVER.*

LET'S GET YOU *OUT OF HERE.*

...

YOUR...

...FAULT...

...CLARK...

BRAPPA BRAPPA

THWOP

HKH!

PERRY!

DYLAN MAY HAVE BEEN A *WACK JOB*, KENT, BUT HE WAS *RIGHT*. YOU'RE A *DANGER* TO EVERYONE CONNECTED TO YOU.

CHIEF, I'M GONNA FIGURE SOMETHING OUT. YOU HAVE TO--

EACH OF US *KNOWS* COMING IN THAT THE JOB COMES WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF *RISK*.

BUT TO WILLINGLY *ENDANGER* YOUR FELLOW REPORTERS, JUST TO MAINTAIN THIS...THIS *LIE OF A LIFE...?*

IT WASN'T A *LIE*.

YES!
YES, IT WAS!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE *WORST PART IS?* I LET IT HAPPEN RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE! LIKE SOME KINDA *CHUMP!*

TAKE THOSE DAMN GLASSES OFF!

SMAK

CONSIDER THIS A *DISMISSAL*, KENT!

CLARK...?

LOIS.

PERRY...HOW'RE YOU FEELING?

DISAPPOINTED, LOIS. YOU OUGHTA KNOW BETTER THAN TO BREAK NEWS LIKE *THAT* ON YOUR PERSONAL *SOCIAL MEDIA FEED.*

YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT UP TO ME BY WRITING A *PROPER ARTICLE* ABOUT ALL THIS. *DUE YESTERDAY.*

THANKS FOR HELPING WITH THIS, JIMMY.

CLICK

OF COURSE.

WHENEVER YOU'RE READY.

GOOD *EVENING*. I'M GOING TO KEEP THIS *SHORT*.

I'VE MADE A LOT OF *ENEMIES* IN MY YEARS AS *SUPERMAN*. IF YOU COUNT YOURSELF AMONG THEM, THIS MESSAGE IS FOR *YOU*.

YOU NOW KNOW MORE ABOUT ME THAN I EVER INTENDED.

YOU KNOW WHO I CARE ABOUT, WHO I LOVE.

SO I'M WARNING YOU...

STAY AWAY FROM MY FRIENDS.

WHATEVER HARM YOU DO TO THEM--

--I REVISIT UPON YOU A THOUSAND-FOLD.

YOU HEAR ME?

STAY AWAY.

Hm.

CLARK.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WE NEED TO TALK.

YOU MAY NOT AGREE WITH WHAT I DID, BUT YOU'D ***BETTER*** UNDERSTAND THAT I DID IT FOR ***YOU!***

I TOLD YOU, WE'LL GET ***THROUGH*** THIS.

DON'T SHUT ME OUT! DON'T SHUT ***YOURSELF*** OUT!

I MEAN, THE WAY YOU WERE ***TALKING*** IN THAT VIDEO... WHAT ***WAS*** THAT?

YESTERDAY IN THAT ***BASE, THOSE QUARMERS*** TOOK AWAY EVEN MORE OF MY ***POWER.*** I CAN FEEL INSIDE THAT IT ISN'T COMING BACK.

THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO DO NOW TO PROTECT ***MY OWN.***

BUT ***AN-EYE-FOR-AN-EYE*** ISN'T HOW ***SUPERMAN*** IS SUPPOSED TO WORK!

MAYBE NOT ***BEFORE.***

GET a WAY MOTEL

VACANCY

SORRY, BIG FELLA. YER *CARD* AIN'T GOIN' THROUGH.

I HAVE *CASH.*

YOU'RE GOING TO BE *LATE*.

NO, YUREI. I'M JUST *IN TIME*.

HORDR IS THE *FUTURE*, SO I'M ALWAYS JUST *IN TIME*.

YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MY *NEW NODE*. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

MUCH MORE *RUGGED* THAN THE LAST FEW MODELS, WOULDN'T YOU SAY? *HA HA*.

Eh.

OH, *COME ON*.

DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND *BODIES* WITH THE RIGHT, *sort of*, *GENETIC MAKE-UP* TO HOST ME?

AND THE *ORIGINAL CONSCIOUSNESS* IN THIS ONE PUT UP SUCH A *FIGHT* DURING THE *INSTALLATION PROCESS*.

YOU OUGHT TO BE *IMPRESSED*.

FINE. I'M IMPRESSED.

HA HA. *GOOD*. I THINK *FATHER* WILL BE, TOO.

Sigh

OF COURSE IT'S ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

IT'S *ALWAYS* ABOUT YOUR FATHER.

AND WHY *SHOULDN'T* IT BE?

IF YOUR PARENTAGE WERE AS, *sort of*, ***DISTINGUISHED*** AS MINE, YOU'D BE JUST AS CONCERNED WITH LIVING UP TO YOUR ***FAMILY NAME.***

I'M FINALLY GOING TO ***PROVE*** TO HIM HORDR'S ***CENTRAL TRUTH:*** NEVER THROW ANYTHING AWAY, NO MATTER HOW ***INSIGNIFICANT--***

--BECAUSE THAT INSIGNIFICANT THING MAY PROVE ***USEFUL*** SOMEDAY.

MY FATHER THOUGHT ME ***INSIGNIFICANT--***

*I'M GOING TO FORCE THE MAN OF TOMORROW TO HELP US **REMAKE** THE WORLD.*

HE TRIED TO THROW YOU ***AWAY.***

--BUT NOW I'LL SHOW HIM JUST HOW ***USEFUL*** I CAN BE.

Anh Thien
NOODLES + DONUTS

SO THIS IS YOUR NEW BREAKFAST SPOT, HUH?

THE *COFFEE'S* GOT AN, UM, INTERESTING SORTA *KICK.*

THE OWNERS LIVE DOWN THE STREET FROM WHERE I'M STAYING. THEY NEVER PARK THEIR TRUCK IN THE *SAME PLACE* TWO WEEKS IN A ROW.

PERFECT FOR SOMEONE TRYING TO KEEP A *LOW PROFILE.* I GET IT.

YOU DOING OKAY? YOU NEED SOME MONEY?

NO, JIM. I'M *FINE.*

WHAT ABOUT... THE OTHER STUFF? YOU KNOW, YOUR *POWERS.*

I'M STILL NOT AT 100%

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON...IT FEELS LIKE I'VE GOT THIS *LAYER OF PLASTIC* OVER ME, AND I CAN'T GET IT *OFF.*

DON'T LOOK, BUT *THAT GUY* OVER THERE IS *STARING* AT US.

WHAT GUY?

DIDN'T I *SPECIFICALLY* TELL YOU NOT TO LOOK?! THAT'S LIKE *RULE #1* OF KEEPING A *LOW PROFILE!* HOW DO YOU NOT KNOW THIS?!

I'M *SORRY,* ALL RIGHT? NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT MY *PROFILE* BEFORE.

GREAT. HE'S COMING OVER HERE.

YOU'RE *CLARK KENT,* AREN'T YOU?

I, UM--

NOPE! NO CLARK KENT HERE!

THIS GUY'S NAME IS, UH, *HORACE.* HORACE *HORACEMAN.*

HM.

"*HORACE HORACEMAN*"?!

I DO *NOT* LOOK LIKE A *HORACE!*

IT WAS THE FIRST THING THAT POPPED INTO MY HEAD!

I GOT HIM TO GO AWAY, DIDN'T I?!

I'M GONNA NEED YOUR *TRUCK.*

YOU AND YOUR *UGLY WIFE* GOT *THREE SECONDS* TO GET OUT.

YOU LET HIM CALL ME *UGLY?!*

THE MAN'S BIGGER THAN OUR HOUSE! HE CAN CALL YOU *WHATEVER HE WANTS!*

HEY, "HORACE"!

CATCH.

KOOM

THAT'S WHAT I *THOUGHT.*

CLARK KENT.

SUPERMAN.

YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

SHOULD I RECOGNIZE YOU?

COUPLE YEARS AGO, BEFORE I'D GOTTEN MY POWERS, YOU PUT ME *AWAY* LIKE I WAS JUST SOME KINDA *CHUMP.*

HUMILIATED ME!

NNGH!

YOU *OWE* ME SOME *RESPECT,* SUPERMAN! I'M HERE TO *COLLECT!*

WHAM

CLARK...

I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WEEE-OOO-WEEE-OOO-

Dustin Pham @cobratalon3 look what happened this morning bro it was CRAZY

@delegencia71 WTE????? Thot he was dead!!!!

Annie Counts Today 11:32am Still can't believe he hid among us for THAT LONG. We all got PRANKED, America!!! #CreepyAlien

Adora Johnson Today 9:05am dot in the sky is Clark Kent/Superman I swear

Pin Chau @greygoggles great. superman ruined my fav pho place

Humans Only @HumansOnly76 GET OFF MY PLANET BEFORE YOU KILL US ALL WITH SOME ALIEN DISEASE YOU ALIEN FREAK #HumansOnly

@briannabreaks HE IS SO HOT STOP

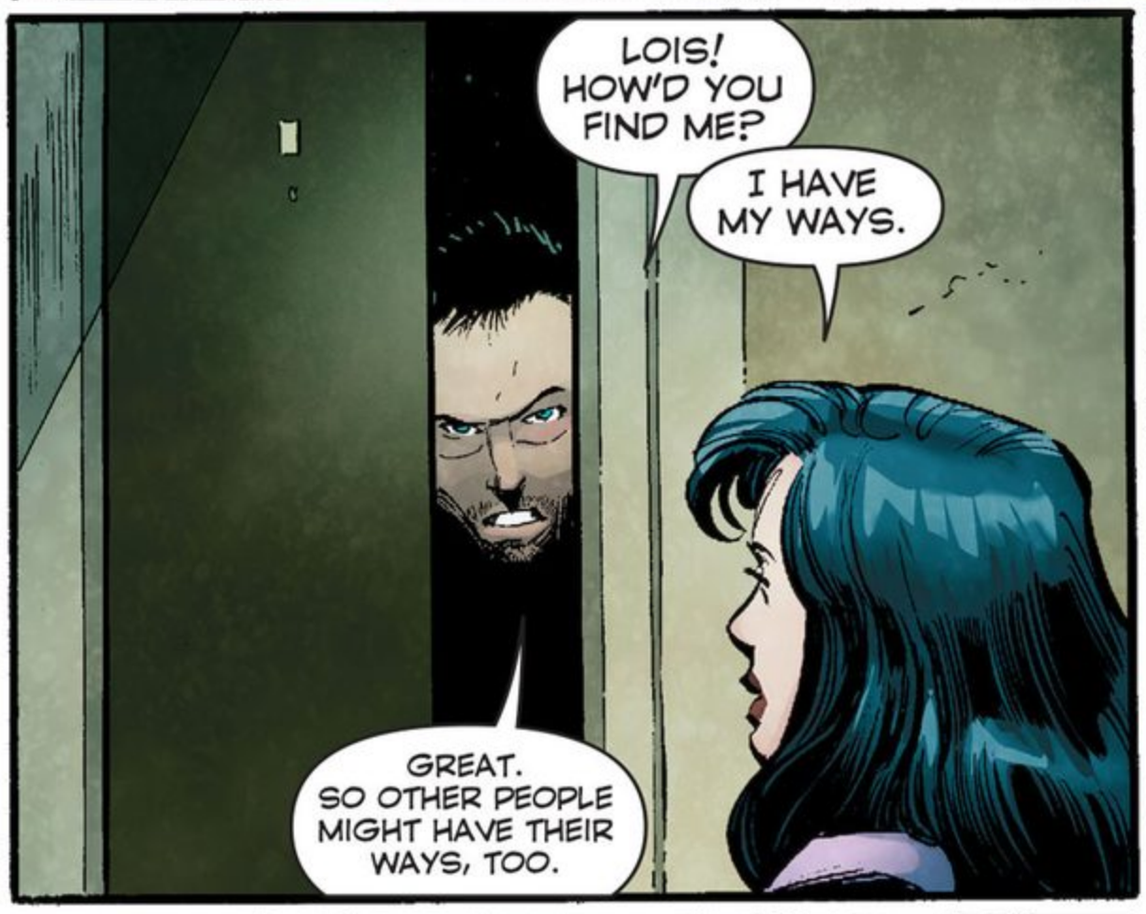
Marcus Dominguez Today 8:56am Most. Epic. Fight. EVER.

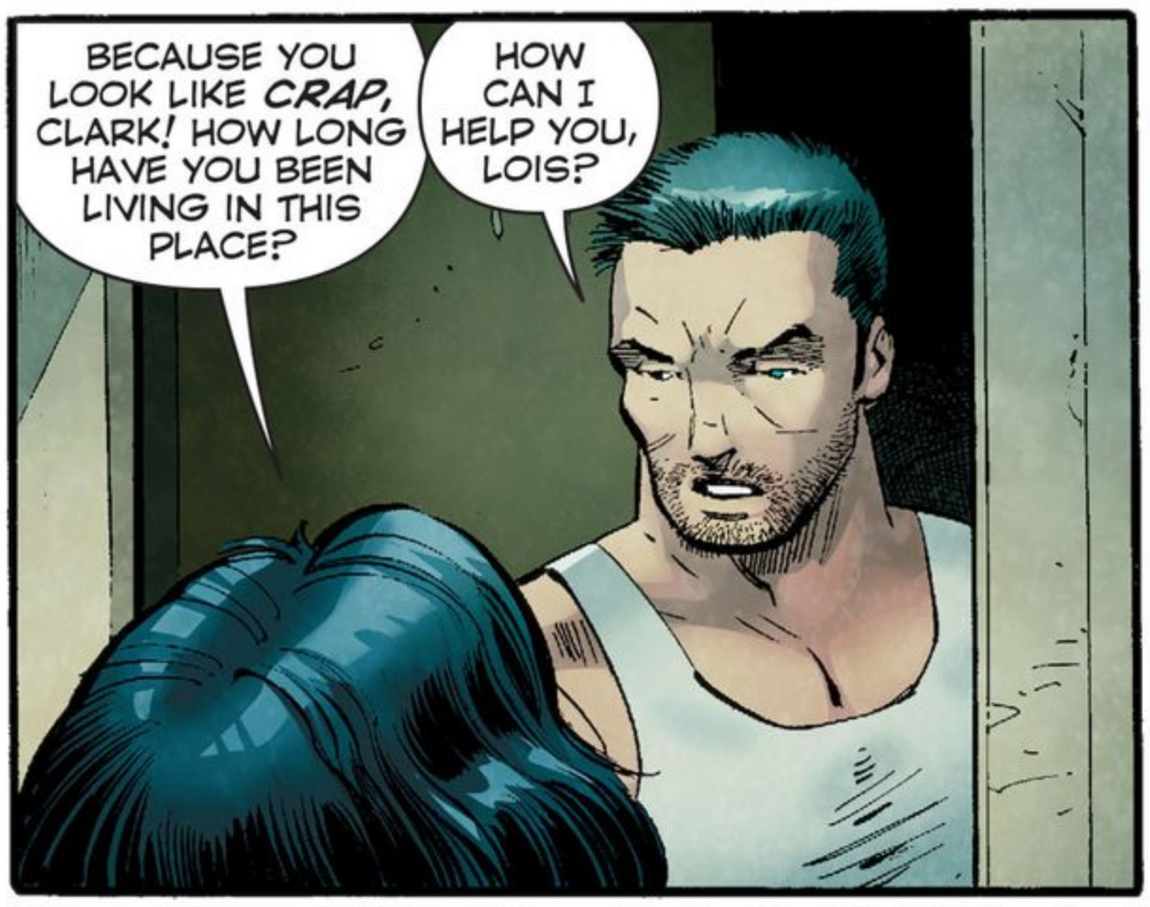
YouTube

0:10/0:30

THIS JUST CONFIRMED...EARLIER TODAY, ***SUPERMAN***--ALSO KNOWN AS ***CLARK KENT***--WAS SPOTTED IN THE ***LITTLE SAIGON*** NEIGHBORHOOD OF METROPOLIS.

SUPERMAN HAS LARGELY KEPT OUT OF THE ***LIMELIGHT*** SINCE DAILY PLANET REPORTER ***LOIS LANE*** EXPOSED HIS ***SECRET IDENTITY*** TO THE WORLD.





EXPOSED

GENE LUEN YANG
script

JOHN ROMITA, JR.
pencils

KLAUS JANSON with SCOTT HANNA
inks

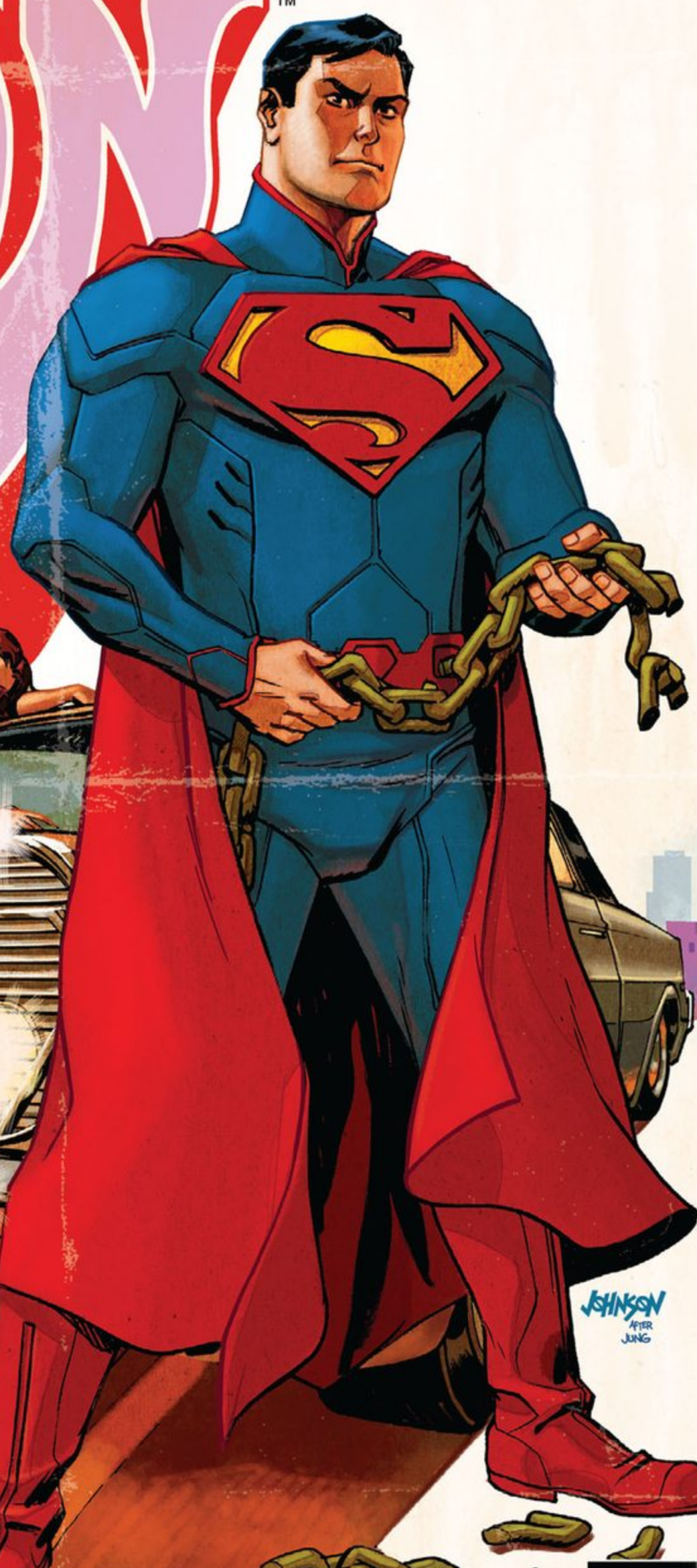
HI-FI
colors

TRAVIS LANHAM: letterer RICKEY PURDIN: associate editor EDDIE BERGANZA: group editor

Never a dude like this one!
He's an ALIEN from Krypton, man!

Superfly movie poster variant cover for issue #40 by DAVE JOHNSON.

Super Man™



See and hear JOHN HENRY IRONS as *STEEL!*

SUPERMAN Issue Forty • JOHN ROMITA, JR. Writer & Penciller • KLAUS JANSON Inker • DEAN WHITE Colorist TRAVIS LANHAM Letterer • DAVE JOHNSON Movie Poster Variant Cover • JEREMY BENT & ANDREW MARINO Assistant Editors • EDDIE BERGANZA Group Editor • BOB HARRAS Senior VP – Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics DAN DIDIO and JIM LEE Co-publishers • DIANE NELSON President

JUNE 2015

RATED T TEEN

DC COMICS™

Convention cover for issue #43 by **JOHN ROMITA JR.**, **KLAUS JANSON** and **PAULO SIQUEIRA.**

Second cover for issue #40 by **JOHN ROMITA JR.**, **KLAUS JANSON** and **DEAN WHITE.**

"SUPERMAN is in good hands." IGN

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Superman is going through some changes. First, there's his new "solar flare" power, which releases tremendous amounts of energy but leaves him functionally human—fragile, vulnerable, prone to hangovers—for 24 hours.

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